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Inter-Arab Affairs

Egypt's Musa Explains Decision on Weapons Pact

NC1101131293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa made a statement today in which he commented on the non-participation of the Arab countries in the Paris conference on banning the spread of chemical weapons scheduled for Wednesday, saying that there is a unanimous Arab League decision not to sign the agreement banning the use of chemical weapons.

The foreign minister said all Arab countries will respect this decision as long as Israel refuses to take steps to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and to set up a region free of weapons of mass-destruction in the Middle East.

In its ordinary session in September 1992, the Arab League decided that the Arab countries should not sign the agreement banning the use of chemical weapons as long as the signing does not include all the region's countries without exception or distinction, and only after Israel signs the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

League Welcomes Addis Ababa Agreement on Somalia

NC1101171893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1628 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League has welcomed the agreement signed by various Somali factions in Addis Ababa to maintain peace and stability in Somalia and hold a national reconciliation conference in mid-March. The Arab League Secretariat described the agreement as an advanced step toward national reconciliation.

In a statement issued today, the Arab League renewed its call on all Somali factions to abide by the cease-fire agreement and to entrench it throughout Somalia so that all differences can be solved peacefully and through dialogue and national accord.

The statement stresses the Arab League's full readiness to cooperate with all Somali groups, the United Nations, and the concerned regional organizations to hold the upcoming conference on Somali reconciliation to lay strong foundations for the reconstruction of Somalia.

The statement voices hope that the Somali leaders will fully cooperate to render all regional and international efforts successful. This, the statement adds, dictates that the Somali leaders demonstrate a commitment to Somali soil and people, who suffered a great deal from the scourge of war. It is high time for the Somali people to enjoy stability, security, and safety, and for all efforts to be directed to reconstruct fraternal Somalia, the statement adds.

The statement expresses confidence that the Somali brothers will be up to this national and historic responsibility.

Reportage on Arab League Meeting on Deportees

Lebanon's Buwayz Arrives

NC1101131993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Statement by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on arrival at Cairo Airport on 11 January—recorded]

[Text] The Arab League Council meeting at the level of foreign ministers today is a real test for Arab solidarity regarding the challenges facing the Arab nation. The main issue at the meeting will be the Palestinian deportees. Lebanon will propose to the Arab League the adoption of a unified and collective resolution to request a Security Council meeting to work out a mechanism and deadline for the return of the deportees. We also will propose to the Arab League Council to call for an Arab summit conference. The importance of the issue lies in the fact that failure to effectively confront the new Israeli challenge will open the door for serious developments: It will open the doors for settling Palestinians and perhaps for deporting more Palestinians in the next few days or weeks.

Therefore, we consider this meeting a real test of the Arabs' ability to unify their views and demonstrate solidarity toward the major challenges. We also must test the Security Council's ("credibility) in dealing with international crises. It is no longer admissible for the Security Council to deal with the world's crises according to different yardsticks. It is inadmissible for the Security Council to pass resolutions that are inapplicable and passed only to appease certain parties and other resolutions that rally enormous solidarity and potential to implement. Either the Security Council endorses resolutions that are general and comprehensive and deal with all resolutions of international legitimacy firmly, or we will have to look for other bodies to deal with our issues.

Draft Resolution Previewed

NC1101155693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1452 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—MENA has learned that the major points of the draft resolution submitted to the Arab foreign ministers emergency meeting, due to begin in Cairo later today, include a declaration that Israel must implement UN Security Council Resolution 799, which requires it to return the deportees and thus provide an appropriate climate for resuming the peace process and settling the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The draft resolution warns of the consequences that Israel's continued intransigence will have on the peace process. It also calls for sending a memorandum to the UN secretary general calling for further UN efforts to

compel Israel to abandon its current stance. The memorandum will urge the United Nations and Security Council to specify a period of time during which Israel can implement Resolution 799. If Israel's intransigence continues past the deadline, it calls for the application of Chapter 7 of the UN Charter. This chapter provides for imposing sanctions amounting to the use of force to implement Security Council resolutions.

The Arab League draft resolution denounces the expulsion of Palestinians as an act violating all international norms. It welcomes the Lebanese refusal to receive the deportees and asserts that Lebanon cannot be a substitute homeland for the Palestinians, nor will it assist the Israeli scheme of emptying the Palestinian homeland of its sons.

MENA has learned that the Arab foreign ministers will discuss the possibility of forming a collective liaison committee, acting under the supervision of the Arab League secretary general, to pursue contacts with the UN secretary general with the aim of settling the crisis and averting any negative repercussions on the peace process.

'Abd-al-Majid Opens Meeting

NC1101180593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1840 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—At the request of the state of Palestine, meetings of the Arab League Council at the ministerial level began at Arab League headquarters this afternoon to discuss the issue of the deported Palestinians.

Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid began the meeting by welcoming the Arab ministers. He said that the aim of the meeting is to support and back the Palestinian people and their just cause, which always occupies the major part of Arab League efforts.

'Abd-al-Majid added that Israel has belittled international determination out of its belief that it can deceive the world and convince it of its irresponsible and preplanned measure, the goal of which is to empty the occupied territories of influential figures in an attempt to enshrine the occupation.

The Arab League secretary general hailed the affected Palestinians, who have been deported from their families, relatives, and territories. He said that their Arab nation, both peoples and governments, appreciates their harsh and inhuman living conditions that were forced on them by the Israeli occupation authorities.

He added that the hasty and irresponsible Israeli decision shows that the glorious Palestinian intifadah has started to bear fruit, causing the occupation authorities to lose their perspective. They are now in open confrontation with an international community that is moving toward building a new world where stability prevails and peoples enjoy the basic principles of human rights, he continued.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid expressed his appreciation for the Lebanese Government, which realized from the very beginning of the crisis the occupation authorities' scheme and the objectives behind their pressures.

He also praised Security Council Resolution 799, which condemned the Israeli measure and demanded the immediate and safe return of the deportees.

He said that the Arab League was dismayed by the Israeli decision, strongly condemned the deportation, and regarded it a blow to the peace process and a grave setback. He added that the Arab and all peace-loving countries need to work to immediately confront this decision. The United Nations and the co-sponsors of the peace conference need to confront Israel's arbitrary measures, rescind the deportation decision and return the Palestinians to their lands, and take all measures necessary to protect the Palestinians in the occupied territories from Israeli repression, he added.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid reviewed the Arab League's actions and efforts on this issue. He appealed to all peace-loving countries in the world not to let Israel violate the law but to make it comply with international legitimacy and compel it to return the deportees to their lands.

In conclusion, the Arab League secretary general said that the Arab countries have come to their League to take an appropriate stand, on that will convince the international community that the deportees must be returned to their houses and occupied territories.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa delivered the next speech. He described the Israeli Government's decision to forcibly deport more than 400 Palestinians as a flagrant violation of international law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and human rights.

Musa said the meeting, convened at Palestine's request, is discussing an important issue of political, legal, and humanitarian implications for this region. He added that it also has international implications, as the world community is forging new relations between countries that seek peaceful settlement of disputes, an effort in which Middle Eastern countries are trying to participate through their involvement in the current peace process, which seeks a just and comprehensive regional peace, exchanging land for peace, and restoring the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

'Amr Musa added that from a legal viewpoint the Israeli decision blatantly violates international law and Israel's international commitments as an occupation authority. He announced: We are certain that the international community will not accept such acts at a time when adherence to international law has become one of the pillars of contemporary international relations.

He added: We are looking forward to a comprehensive and just peace that will provide us with security, stability, and prosperity.

He explained that when the issue is viewed from the humanitarian aspect, the Israeli authorities took the deportees from their homes and, disregarding humanitarian considerations, left them in open country where they are experiencing harsh conditions.

The foreign minister voiced his appreciation for the international community's sympathy with the massive Arab denunciation of the Palestinians' hardships under occupation, particularly the deportees.

He also thanked the UN secretary general for his efforts to implement UN Security Council Resolution 799.

He called on the international community to cooperate and adopt a definite stand that will lead to the deportees' return. He explained that such an international stand will guarantee that the peace process will continue in a positive political atmosphere.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz then delivered a speech to the emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting, saying that the meeting comes in the wake of a new Israeli defiance of the Arabs' desire for a just and comprehensive peace and their attempts to build a better future for the people of the region.

Buwayz said while the peace talks are aimed at achieving peace and solving old problems, new, more complicated problems have been added. He added that the Palestinians are being deported to Lebanon today and will be deported to other Arab countries or non-Arab countries tomorrow. He urged the Arabs to stand up to Israel's practices, which aim at emptying Palestine of its people. He also called for implementing Security Council Resolution 799 and applying Chapter 7 of the UN Charter.

PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi then delivered a speech in which he stressed that the return of the Palestinian deportees is a basic condition for the resumption of the peace negotiations.

Qaddumi reviewed the terrible conditions the deportees have been facing, bad weather conditions and continuing Israeli shelling. He noted that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is arrogantly rejecting the deportees' return in defiance of international will and Security Council resolutions.

Qaddumi said that Israel is trying to raise suspicions among the Arab negotiators by falsely talking about progress on a certain track and not on others. It is also trying to delude the world into thinking that the negotiations are progressing. He explained that Israel always tries to buy time while it establishes settlements in the occupied Arab territories.

Qaddumi called for an urgent Arab summit to be convened to discuss all issues of concern to the Arab nation. He said U.S. President George Bush's administration supported Israel's superiority and the establishment of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories through easy loans to Israel. He called on the Arab ministers to discuss the Arab situations wisely and knowingly so that Israel cannot implement its settlement program, which extends to all neighboring Arab countries.

The Palestinian official stressed that the Palestinian people are eager to achieve peace in the region. He said the Palestinians believe that the transitional period must lead to a final solution based on Security Council Resolution 242, which provides for Israel's withdrawal from all occupied territories, including Jerusalem, and for the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. Concluding his speech, Qaddumi called for complete Arab solidarity to serve Arab interests.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' delivered a speech in which he called for a Security Council session to implement Resolution 799. He said the Council should shoulder its responsibilities and highlight its credibility by implementing its resolutions and working out a mechanism for the return of the deportees. We cannot imagine any other solution, he said.

He said the Arabs should follow a number of steps to solve the problem of the deportees: Suspend the multilateral talks with Israel, adhere to the Arab boycott against Israel, and refrain from implementing any Security Council resolution (?that harms) the genuine interests of the Arab and Islamic peoples.

Jordanian Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir joined the meeting one hour after its opening because of his late arrival in Cairo.

After the open session, the Arab foreign ministers held a closed session to discuss the draft resolution on the question of the Palestinian deportees, which will be issued later tonight.

Further on 11 Jan Session

NC1101212893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2055 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Council ended its meeting this evening. The Arab foreign ministers will resume their discussions on the Palestinian deportees and the formation of a committee to formulate a final statement tomorrow morning.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa earlier turned the opening session into a closed session after heads of a number of Arab delegations addressed the session.

Musa Notes Positive Discussions

NC1101220593 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Mr. 'Amr Musa, Egyptian foreign minister and chairman of the emergency Arab foreign ministers meeting, has said that the foreign ministers will hold a second meeting tomorrow morning to discuss a draft resolution now being prepared by a committee drawn from Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and Palestine. The ministers will discuss proposals on the Arab position toward Israel's deportation of Palestinians.

Musa said the discussions were positive, with the delegations expressing several viewpoints on how to confront Israel's act and implement Security Council Resolution 799. He said heads of the delegations will meet tomorrow to discuss some other Arab issues.

PLO'S 'Abd-Rabbuh on Resolution

NC1101213293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has said that the Palestinian position as announced at the Arab foreign ministers meeting today—namely, that the Palestinians will not participate in the bilateral or the multilateral negotiations scheduled for 9 February if Security Council Resolution 799 on the Palestinian deportees is not implemented—is the Palestinian leadership's decision.

'Abd-Rabbuh explained that the Security Council has almost one month to implement its resolution; otherwise, the entire peace process will face real danger.

Syria's al-Shar' on 799

JN1201091293 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 93

['Abd-al-Salam Hijab dispatch from Cairo]

[Text] Arab foreign ministers will resume their emergency meeting this morning at the headquarters of the General Secretariat of the Arab League in Cairo.

[Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made comments during last night's opening session of the emergency meeting, in which he asserted the need to reach a unified Arab stand on the question of the Palestinian deportees, saying that Israel is responsible for their human tragedy.

The foreign minister stressed the need for another Security Council meeting to implement Resolution 799 stipulating the return of Palestinian deportees to their homeland, so as to prove its credibility and bear its responsibilities under the UN Charter.

Al-Shar' added: There are Arab steps that can be considered to embody our political will, particularly in light of Israel's disregard for the Arab position. Al-Shar' urged Arab states to suspend the multilateral negotiations, especially since these negotiations serve Israeli interests rather than those of the Arabs.

He added: The objective of the bilateral peace talks is to regain our occupied territories and our usurped rights, leading to the achievement of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. The foreign minister urged adherence to the Arab boycott of Israel, particularly in light of attempts to undermine this boycott. As Arabs, we are all now calling on the Security Council to impose measures against Israel in line with Chapter VII of the UN Charter, he said. Al-Shar' emphasized the need to adhere to the Arab boycott of Israel until the causes that warranted it are removed.

The foreign minister wondered why Arabs are asked to abide by any resolution issued by the Security Council, even if some of these resolutions harm the interests of Arab and Islamic peoples.

In his comments, al-Shar' underlined the fact that Israel acts as if it were above the law and outside the framework of international legitimacy. Al-Shar' added that Israel's refusal to implement Security Council resolutions, the latest being Resolution 799, encourages many nations to not abide by resolutions issued by the Security Council.

Concluding his remarks, al-Shar' called for holding a Security Council session to lay down a mechanism and establish a time frame, not exceeding a month, to take appropriate measures for the implementation of Resolution 799.

Arab Council Concludes Meeting

NC1201112593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1044 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Ministerial Council concluded its meeting at noon today. The meeting opened earlier today to discuss the issue of the Palestinian deportees at the request of the state of Palestine.

[Egyptian] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, chairman of the current session, said the Council discussed the Palestinian deportees issue, adding that the Council endorsed a statement which will be read out later today by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid.

Musa added that this session will continue to follow the deportees issue in view of its serious implications for the general climate and the establishment of peace on the basis of the land-for-peace formula and the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338.

The Arab foreign ministers taking part in the Council session will meet with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid later today.

Statement Condemns Israel

NC1201113893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1056 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—The Arab League Ministerial Council has strongly condemned Israel for committing the crime of deporting more than 400 Palestinian nationals from the occupied territories and, therefore, violating the rules of international law and the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

In a statement at the conclusion of its meetings in Cairo today, the Council warned against the serious repercussions of this violation and of the mass deportation

policy, which will affect security and stability in the region and the current peace process.

MENA has learned that the statement, which will be delivered later today by Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al- Majid, involves a condemnation of Israel's infringement on Lebanese sovereignty by deporting these Palestinians to occupied Lebanese land. The statement also will support the Lebanese Government's decisions in this regard.

The Council called on the UN Security Council to take the necessary measures—including the application of Article 7 of the UN Charter—to compel Israel to implement at once Resolution 799, which provides for the immediate return of the deportees.

The statement also calls on the United Nations to work out a suitable mechanism to enforce the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly through the deployment of an international force to provide protection for nationals in the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories.

It called on international humanitarian organizations to intensify efforts to give the Palestinian deportees access to relief aid via the occupied Palestinian territories.

The Council requested the Arab League secretary general to follow up on the implementation of that resolution and report back to the Council. It also decided to remain in open session and authorized the secretary general to call meetings as events warrant.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Views Iraqi Incursions

NC1101164593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1616 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah arrived in Cairo today to attend the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, which will start in Cairo later today.

In statements he made on arrival, the Kuwaiti foreign minister commented on news agencies' reports about the Iraqi violation of Kuwaiti borders, saying that the reports are true and adding: These territories became Kuwaiti after the border demarcation work ended; however, they are currently under the control of UN and international forces.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad discussed the issue of Kuwaiti POW's, expressing his appreciation for the Arab League secretary general's efforts to secure their release. He said that Baghdad's claims that the information it is receiving is not enough are untrue, noting that the Iraqis want to exploit these prisoners for bargaining purposes. They will have to implement the Security Council resolutions regardless, he added.

On the issue of the borders between Iraq and Kuwait, he said: The demarcation of land borders has been completed, border markers have been erected, and 15 January has been fixed as the final date for removing Iraqi police posts in these territories. The demarcation of the maritime borders has not been completed yet but this will be done within two months, he concluded.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Confers With 'Amr Musa

JN1201082093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic,0400 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] At the Arab League headquarters last night, [Iraqi] Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, chairman of the Arab foreign ministers emergency session.

The two sides discussed the current Arab situation and a number of issues concerning pan-Arab security. Al-Sahhaf also explained the dimensions of U.S. schemes aimed at fabricating crises to harm Iraq and peddle schemes aimed at dividing it and at prejudicing its sovereignty and the security of its steadfast people.

The minister emphasized that Iraq will reject and oppose these schemes with full confidence and capability.

Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, attended the meeting.

Islamic Affairs

Senegal's President Diouf Opens ICO Mini-Summit

AB1101173793 Dakar Radio Senegal in French 1300 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Summary From Poor Reception] "We now join Ibrahima Gabi for the report on the opening session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] conference presided over by the head of state, President Abdou Diouf. The opening session took place in the presence of the presidents of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Palestine, and (?Turkey), the ICO secretary general, Hamid Algabith, as well as several delegation chiefs."

[Gabi] "The (?critical) situation of Palestinians deported from territories occupied by Israel, what is prevailing in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and problems facing Muslim minorities throughout the world—especially the demolition of the Babri Mosque in India—are the three main issues raised in the ICO current chairman's speech and that of the ICO secretary general, Hamid Algabith."

Concerning the first point, President Diouf said the expulsion of Palestinians constitutes a flagrant violation of the UN charter and the Geneva Convention. "The current ICO chairman took the opportunity to pay tribute to the Palestinian people" and through them, all Muslims experiencing similar situations.

[Begin Diouf recording] "It is therefore clear that Israel again assumes the responsibility of wrecking the peace process in the Middle East. The unanimous condemnation that the deportation of our Palestinian brothers raised has just been illustrated by the unanimous adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 799 of 18 December, firmly condemning (?this action) and demanding the immediate and secure return of all those who have been deprived of their homes.

"I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of our organization, to hail the speed with which the UN Security Council handled this. But if this resolution, like all the previous ones, is not implemented, the problem will remain intact. [passage indistinct] I would also like to take this opportunity to again salute the entire Islamic community and the courageous resistance that the Palestinian people, through the intifadah, have been putting up against Israeli occupation, and bow to the memory of the martyrs of this heroic struggle. Furthermore, we reaffirm our support for the PLO and to its president, our brother Yasir 'Arafat, in their struggle to recover the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, a struggle which is a basic cause for the birth of the ICO." [end recording]

Touching on the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Abdou Diouf states that the situation is taking on a dramatic turn every day because, he said, it threatens the very existence of an entire people.

[Begin Diouf recording] "As you know, right from the beginning of the tragedy currently being experienced by the Bosnian people, ICO gave all the attention required to the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Thus, our organization has played an important role by involving the United Nations in the efforts aimed at having the independence and territorial integrity of Bosnia-Herzegovina respected. The holding of two extraordinary sessions of ICO foreign ministers in June and December 1992 in Istanbul and Jeddah devoted to this issue falls within this context. The same can be said for the creation in New York of a contact group charged with regularly monitoring the examination of this issue at the United Nations. The practice of ethnic cleansing perpetrated daily against the Bosnian people is likely to threaten the very existence of a whole people. We must at this juncture bow down our heads for the deputy prime minister of Bosnia-Herzegovina, victim three days ago of a cowardly assassination by the Serbs. The impunity which the Serb forces enjoyed encouraged them to persist in their actions, which are contrary to all moral ethics and international law."

The ICO will continue to participate in all initiatives, especially within the UN framework, aimed at alleviating the sufferings of the Bosnian people and to put an end to the Serbian aggression. [end recording]

"President Abdou Diouf also reiterated [words indistinct] (?made) by the (?joint) chairmen of the conference on ex-Yugoslavia, Lord Owens and Cyrus Vance. While expressing the Islamic Community's desire for a peaceful settlement of the conflict, the head of state did not hesitate to roundly condemn the belligerent attitude of the Serbians. In fact, according to him, it takes two people to make peace. And yet, Abdou Diouf continues, the Serbians have clearly turned their back on any possibility of negotiated settlement. Therefore, the ICO current chairman called for a military action to enforce the UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions."

President Diouf said the presence of Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic at the head of his country's delegation at the conference will be very useful to assess the situation in his country and find ways and means of achieving a fair and lasting solution to the Bosnian issue.

"The last point, but not the least, raised by the head of state was the situation of Muslim minority in the world, and especially in India with the destruction of the Babri Mosque."

"The ICO secretary general, speaking after President Diouf, paid glowing tribute to him for taking the initiative to convene this meeting which, according Secretary General Hamid Algabid, demonstrates his commitment to the service of Islam and for the well being as well as progress of Muslims. On the destruction of the Babri Mosque in India, the ICO secretary general called for more firmness on the part of the Indian Government. He then stressed that the Islamic Conference has taken note of the Indian Government's decision to rebuild that mosque."

He said: "[Word indistinct] I denounced and strongly condemned that criminal act which testifies to an antiquated fanaticism and constitutes a serious danger for all human societies. The Babri Mosque, which is many centuries old, was a living symbol of which Muslims are proud. We urged the Indian Government for more firmness to avoid the repetition of these acts and took note of the Indian Government to rebuild the Babri Mosque on its initial place at Ayodhya."

"Islam teaches tolerance and the respect for the others. We hope that peace at heart and in the mind will prevail between Muslims and the various human communities with whom they live in the state members or in the non-state members." However, I must stress here that we cannot indifferently witness attacks on our values and all that is related to our faith."

The Palestinians expelled from the occupied territory are happy about this ICO meeting in Dakar. They welcomed the initiative of Arab League and the ICO, which are considering their problems. They called for pressure on the UN Security Council so that it adopts a new resolution comprising sanctions against Israel in addition to Resolution 499 that demands an immediate return of the banned Palestinians. Israel, which still refuses to abide by that resolution, henceforth counts on the American veto at the Security Council to avoid sanctions. The discussions held between Israel Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and the UN special envoy produced no results.

King Fahd Sends Message to Summit

LD1101144793 Riyadh SPA in English 1306 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Dakar, Jan 11, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz has sent a message to the Senegalese President Abdou Diouf who is also the chairman of the sixth Islamic summit.

The message was conveyed by Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, the minister of state and cabinet member who was received by President Diouf here last night. Mas'ud said the message was dealing with the current situation of the Islamic world and ways to deal with them.

Mas'ud told the Saudi Press Agency (SPA) that King Fahd is highly appreciating the efforts being exerted by President Diouf to deal with these questions.

"His Excellency President Diouf has expressed deep-seated thanks of his country to King Fahd for the participation of the kingdom in the meeting of the bureau of the sixth Islamic summit to be held on Monday and for his constant and great efforts to reinforce the Islamic cooperation and solidarity and his effective support of the Islamic causes."

Minister Mas'ud arrived in Dakar on Sunday for the meeting which will be attended by member heads of state and chairmen of permanent committees of the OIC under the chairmanship of President Diouf. [passage omitted]

The Saudi delegation to the meeting consists of Ambassador Muhammad Fayiz Al-Sharif, chief of Islamic affairs department at the Foreign Ministry, Yusif 'Abu-Aish, the first secretary at the ministry and Ibrahim Al-Omran, the director of the Minister's Office.

Turkey's Ozal Addresses Meeting

TA1101153893 Ankara Turkiye Radyolari Network in Turkish 1500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] President Turgut Ozal has called for an extraordinary session of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] after 15 January in a bid to reassess the situation in Bosnia-Hercegovina and implement the necessary measures. Ozal delivered a speech at the ICO summit expanded chairmanship council meeting, which began in Dakar, Senegal, this morning.

According to Coskun Kartal from the TRT [Turkish Radio and Television] team in Dakar, in his speech Ozal accorded priority to the matter of Bosnia-Hercegovina. Pointing out that the human tragedy experienced in this country is continuing before the eyes of the entire world, Ozal stressed that the Serbs are responsible for the ongoing disaster and the Muslims are the victims.

Recounting the measures Turkey wants adopted, the president declared that for a just and lasting peace, the international community must resort to force. As a first step, Ozal stated, the no-fly zone over Bosnia-Hercegovina must be enforced in an effective manner and the heavy weapons in the hands of the Serbs must be supervised. Ozal asked that assistance be extended to the government of Bosnia-Hercegovina to defend the country, adding that to this end, the country should be exempted from the arms embargo imposed on former Yugoslavia and the perpetrators of crimes of humanity must be brought to justice.

Resorting to means which have never been tried in the context of international legal sanctions and implementing the genocide treaty within this framework were also among Ozal's demands. Ozal further requested that the matter be immediately brought before the UN General Assembly and that the Islamic countries increase their material aid and ensure that this aid safely reaches Bosnia- Hercegovina. The president also called for an extraordinary session of the ICO after 15 January in a bid to reassess the situation and implement the measures.

Ozal on ICO Resolutions

TA1201094093 Ankara TRT Television Network in Turkish 0600 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] President Turgut Ozal has stated that the elements in the final communique of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] summit expanded chairmanship council meeting incorporate all of Turkey's requests.

At a news conference he organized in the late hours of the night in Dakar, the Senegalese capital, Ozal stated that the resolutions on Bosnia-Hercegovina in the final declaration are satisfactory. Ozal stated that the newest element included in the declaration is a call for the perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Bosnia-Hercegovina to be tried by an international court of justice. Ozal pointed out that this issue, which has been raised at such a meeting for the first time, will apply considerable pressure on the Serbs.

Ozal recalled that the president of Senegal, the ICO term president, will initiate moves for an extraordinary ICO summit meeting after 15 January. Ozal stated that the contact group in New York, consisting of certain Islamic countries' representatives at the United Nations, will continue its efforts.

In answer to questions, Ozal stated that the fact that the expanded council meeting was not attended by all the participating countries' heads of states does not diminish the value of the resolutions.

Pointing out that Bosnia-Hercegovina is a Muslim country in the middle of Europe, Ozal said that Turkey has a moral obligation toward this country and that issues of this kind strengthen the unity within Turkey.

Meanwhile, Bosnia-Hercegovina President Alija Izetbegovic and Turkish Foreign Minister Hikmet Cetin will leave Dakar for Geneva this morning. Cetin will later go to Paris for the signing of the international agreement on the nonproliferation of chemical weapons.

Ozal will return to Turkey today after ending his contacts in Senegal.

Bosnian President on Arms Embargo

AB1101220893 Paris AFP in English 2143 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Dakar, Jan 11 (AFP) - The United Nations' arms embargo cannot apply to Bosnia-Hercegovina because it was imposed against a Yugoslavia "which no longer exists", Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic told the Organisation of Islamic states Conference Monday [1 January].

"Those who supply arms to Bosnia violate no embargo," the president claimed here.

Izetbegovic has long called for the lifting of the embargo which has prevented the Sarajevo government from acquiring the heavy artillery used by the Serbian side in the Bosnian civil war.

Turning to the current Geneva peace talks, the president said his government accepted the plan proposed by the conference chairman, Cyrus Vance of the U.N. and Lord Owen of the European Community, in so far as it concerns "one de-centralised state of 10 provinces".

"But we will not allow the regions which have suffered the most from (Serbian) ethnic purification to remain under the Serbs' control", Izetbegovic said.

"On the military plan, we will not make concessions and we want Serbian artillery to be put under (international) control," he added.

The president said he could not confirm allegations that Greece, Russia and Rumania had been breaking the U.N. sanctions against trade with Serbia. "We have seen signs of this, but we do not have proof", he said.

But Izetbegovic denied Serbian accusations that Bosnia was employing foreign mercenaries in its armed forces. "We have enough young men ready to fight for our independence," he insisted.

Summit Ends; Statement Issued

AB1101230293 Dakar Radio Senegal in French 2200 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The meeting of the bureau of the sixth Islamic summit, extended to chairmen of permanent committees, ended today. At the end of the meeting, a final statement was issued adopted on the issue of the deported Palestinians, the tragic situation in Bosnia, as well as the issue of the destruction of the Babri Mosque. Here is a summary of that statement by our reporter Ibrahima Sabid:

[Sabid] The Dakar meeting strongly condemned the Israeli decision to deport more than 400 Palestinians from their homes in the occupied territories and believed that the decision was a violation of human rights and of all international laws and conventions, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention. The meeting stressed that the Israeli Government should exclusively bear the direct responsibility for the dramatic situation in which the deported Palestinians are living. The meeting called on the international community to take the necessary measures to ensure adequate protection for the Palestinian people in the occupied territories and to place them temporarily under the trusteeship of the United Nations, in conformity with the Security Council resolutions.

The Dakar meeting also saluted the Palestinian intifadah and expressed its total solidarity with and full support for the Palestinian people in their right struggle to recover their national and inalienable rights that should lead to the establishment of an independent state with a capital at al-Quds, and with the PLO as its only representative. The meeting reaffirmed that all measures taken by Israel to annex the city of Jerusalem are null and void, in conformity with the decision of the highest organ of the United Nations. The meeting mandated President Diouf, chairman of the sixth conference of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], to make contacts at the highest levels with members of the Security Council, the UN secretary general, and the chairman of the European Economic Community, in order to ensure without delay the implementation of Resolution 799 which guarantees the immediate and safe return of the deported Palestinians to their homes.

Concerning the Bosnian issue, the meeting held the Serb leaders in Belgrade and their accomplices in Bosnia totally responsible for the collective massacres, tortures, rapes, war crimes, and crimes against humanity and other crimes committed against the defenseless Muslims and Croats in Bosnia. The meeting also emphasized the need to identify and to try those responsible for those crimes against humanity and called for the immediate establishment of an international tribunal. Still on this issue, the meeting mandated President Diouf to make contacts at the highest levels to ensure the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on Bosnia. The meeting demanded that Bosnia be exempted from Resolution 713 of the Security Council, a resolution relating to the embargo on weapons imposed on the former Yugoslavia, so as to enable the Republic of Bosnia to exercise efficiently its natural right of legitimate, individual and collective defense. The meeting recommended that President Diouf should hold consultations for the holding of an extraordinary session of the Islamic summit.

On the third point, namely the destruction of the Babri Mosque in India, the meeting called on the Indian Government to implement and to honor without delay the commitment it made to rebuild the mosque on its original site. The meeting called on it to take effective measures to protect the fundamental rights of the Indian Muslims, in particular their religious and cultural rights in their mosques and holy places.

Palestinian Affairs

'Ashrawi: No Talks Until Deportees Returned

NC1201120393 Paris AFP in English 1109 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Jerusalem, Jan 12 (AFP)—The Palestinian delegation has informed Washington that they will not attend any peace talks, bilateral or multilateral, until Israel brings back the deportees, spokeswoman Hanan 'Ashrawi said Tuesday.

The head of the Palestinian team to the Middle East negotiations, Faysal al-Husayni, sent a letter on Thursday to acting U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger stating the Palestinian case, the delegation spokeswoman told AFP.

"The letter charged Israel with responsibility for providing a knockout blow to the peace process," by deporting the suspected fundamentalists to no man's land in south Lebanon.

"If there is any willingness to return to the negotiating table it will have to start with the return of the deportees," she said.

The letter included demands that "Israel commit itself to the basis of the peace process (U.N resolution 242 and 338 on return of occupied land) and abide by the Geneva Convention on occupying powers with particular respect to human rights."

Israel, which rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution urging the immediate return of the men expelled on December 17, wants a ninth round of bilateral peace talks to take place in Washington during February.

Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories expected an emergency Arab League meeting underway in Cairo to send a clear message to Israel that the deportees must be brought back if progress is to made in the peace talks.

Ten Factions Appeal for New UN Resolution

NC1101162393 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Ten Palestinian factions have appealed to the Arab foreign ministers and Arab League secretary general to work very hard to refer the deportees issue again to the Security Council to secure a resolution authorizing sanctions against Israel if it refuses to take back the deportees.

DFLP Leader Calls For 'Binding Measures'

JN0901183493 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1730 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] On the 62d month of the intifadah, Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], has addressed a message to our militant people. Hawatimah hailed the great intifadah and our people's sacrifices to confront the plot aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause, stopping the intifadah, and ending the daily actions of struggle.

Hawatimah said: As the terrorist Yitzhaq Rabin is continuing the policy of his predecessor, represented by refusing to recognize the Palestinian people and their national rights, continuing to steal Palestinian land and uproot the Palestinian people, and rejecting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799, we appeal to the UN Security Council member states to adopt tangible measures against the Zionist entity in light of its refusal to implement Resolution 799 and to take binding measures so that international legitimacy will not be lopsided.

Hawatimah called for stopping the Washington talks and for the Arabs to adopt solidarity with our people, urging the promotion of pan-Arab interests against internal differences. He called on the Tunis [PLO] leadership to end its destructive policies.

'Text' of Fatah, Hamas Khartoum Agreement

JN1201120093 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 12 Jan 93 p 20

[Text] Tunis, QUDS PRESS—A well-informed Palestinian source in Tunis has told QUDS PRESS that Fatah and Hamas have agreed to continue bilateral talks through a number of committees formed at a meeting held by representatives of the commands of both movements and chaired by Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat in the presence of Islamic Sudanese leader Dr. Hasan al-Turabi.

QUDS PRESS has obtained a copy of the official agreement between the two movements signed in Khartoum by Colonel Nasr Yusuf, deputizing for Salim al-Za'nun, head of the Fatah delegation. The agreement was also signed by Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of the Hamas delegation and chairman of the movement's political desk, and Sudanese mediator Hasan al-Turabi, secretary general of the Arab and Islamic People's Congress [AIPC]. Following is the text of the agreement:

Based on an invitation from the AIPC General Secretariat, two Palestinian delegations representing Fatah and Hamas, AIPC Secretary General Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, and a number of Sudanese personalities, held a meeting in Khartoum between 2 and 4 January 1993. The meeting was attended by Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine and chairman of the PLO. (list of names of the two delegations).[list omitted by source]

The meeting focused on an agenda that addressed PLO organizational relations and other frameworks of cooperation and coordination. Discussion also revolved around stands and policies on the deportees, issues related to armed struggle and the intifadah, and international negotiations on Palestine. Discussion resulted in the following:

1. Fatah emphasizes that the PLO is the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

2. Hamas reiterates its adherence to the principle of belonging to the PLO as a necessary framework for the unity of the Palestinian people. Accordingly, it was agreed to continue contacts on rules and ratios of representation, PLO modes of action, and the current diverse political stands, in order to pave the way for Hamas' entry into the PLO.

3. The two delegations agreed to form a general committee for dialogue between them on all relations and issues that would lead to a framework for coordination on the issue of armed struggle and Arab and international communication.

4. The two delegations agreed to form a general coordination committee inside the occupied territories to exchange information, hold consultations, organize relations, and integrate methods of achieving unity.

5. The two delegations agreed to form a joint leadership, representing all Palestinian forces, to deal with intifadah issues.

6. The two delegations agreed to form a committee for deportee issues, including Fatah, Hamas, and all participating Palestinian forces. Other committees will stem from this group and handle issues of aid, media, and popular and political mobilization. The committee will be in contact with Yasir 'Arafat in terms of activating official diplomatic action. The committee should meet everywhere as necessitated by the purpose of each meeting.

7. It was agreed that four representatives of both delegations will return to Khartoum after two weeks to name all the committees formed by the two delegations and to consult on procedural arrangements and on places where these committees will convene or work.

8. It was agreed that the Gaza Islamic University committee will resume its meetings. There are current contacts and consultations with Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and bodies concerned with this committee.

9. The two sides agreed to review charters which were initially written between them so as to formally endorse them and make them a guide for joint cooperation.

10. The two sides agreed to be truly committed to avoiding any reciprocal attacks in the media or any direct or indirect negative references to one another. They also agreed to control their cadres to avoid conflicts, clashes, and fighting with each other; to observe goodwill in words and deeds despite their differences in view; and to preserve the spirit of Palestinian unity despite the presence of various Palestinian organizations.

Israel Accused of 'Racist, Nazi' Thinking

PM0801152593 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 7 Jan 93 p 4

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee member Khalid al-Hasan by Mahmud Ma'ruf in Rabat; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Ma'ruf] The Israeli Supreme Court has rejected the appeal submitted by those deported from the occupied territories.

[Al-Hasan] The Zionist Supreme Court sanctions all the Israeli Government's Zionist actions against the Palestinians and their rights. So it is not surprising for this court to impudently adopt the thieves' logic when it lays responsibility for the deportees' future on the Lebanese Government, on the grounds that they are on Lebanese territory, as though it were the deportees who had decided of their own accord to leave Palestine and go to Lebanese territory.

And to prove that the Zionist Supreme Court serves—in addition to the Israeli political and military leaderships' policy—the man sitting in the Oval Office in Washington's White House, who always calls, be he a Democrat or a Republican, for respect for human rights in the world, when it comes to the Palestinians the Israeli Supreme Court and the U.S. White House do not condemn the violation of human rights. This is because both of them enjoy assassinating those rights so that there are no rights to be violated. They are the murderers of Palestinian human rights. Violations apply only to the rights of eastern Jews. [passage omitted]

[Ma'ruf] Do you expect the deportation decision to affect the course of current negotiations?

[Al-Hasan] The problem of the present Arab mentality is that it is not trying to understand its adversary. All Zionist leaders at present belong to Europe, thus they belong to racist and Nazi thinking. A British politician said that Zionist leaders belong to European politics, which is based on theft and lying. I recall that he told me: If you forget that, you will not win any battle against the Zionists.

Thus we must know how to deal with those embodying Nazism and South Africanism in an extremist way, and realize that continuation of the struggle is essential to successful negotiations. This is because the Zionist mentality embodied by the political leadership in the Zionist entity understands nothing except the politics of the jackboot: Either hit or be hit. And as George Washington said, they cannot live except by sucking the blood of others. The Israeli political leadership is like a coward seeking protection from a strong man (the United States)—which makes them the fiercest people the world has even known. This is because the master's slave is a master, and Israel is the United States' slave. And the arrogance of power is the basic philosophy and value governing the thinking of the Zionist entity's leaders.

whether they belong to the Likud or to Labor, or to the Begin or Golda Meir school. So continuing and stepping up the struggle inside the occupied territories is essential. Nothing is more astonishing than to accuse us of extremism.

It is like a thief accusing a home-owner of extremism, even though the owner is not demanding the entire house but, rather, the chance to live with the thief in the same house. And the United States, as characterized by the Oval Office in the White House, has no right to turn itself into a staging post for racism and the double-standard policy in its foreign policy by overlooking Israel's crimes, because Israel is a slave to the U.S. Administration and a servant of its interests and policy, overlooking all the Palestinian people's rights, which the United States and the West have caused to be squandered.

Stepping up the struggle inside the occupied territories is justifiable and necessary, and it should happen. If it it did not exist, the Palestinian people would not have deserved to live. But struggle is not merely violence. All violence must have a political aim. And we must adhere to our values, especially if we belong to Christianity or Islam. This is because killing captives is forbidden under Islam, and we should not be the Zionists, who kill captives, who have fabricated the Gaza battles, and who have so far killed eight people. To the world they do not execute people; yet they do execute more people than any state in the world. A movement like Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] must not damage its patriotism by violating the Islamic Shar'iah. They should remember Salah-al-Din, his magnanimity, and his refusal to kill the European captives even though the Europeans were killing Muslim captives. [passage omitted]

[Ma'ruf] Hamas makes it a condition that participation in the negotiations be suspended.

[Al-Hasan] That condition can be discussed with Hamas. But we should begin the dialogue by trusting one another, since we are all patriotic and we should deal with one another on the basis that we are all patriotic. There may be differences, but there is no treason.

There should be no accusation of treason, because we are in a patriotic stage and no one can betray his homeland. If it does happen, it is a rare case. Patriotism is a bond, and in Islam defending the homeland is a jihad. This is because he who dies for his homeland is a martyr. The same applies to the other patriotic, nationalist, and ideological movements: Everyone's principle is to proceed from patriotism. We are human beings and every human being makes mistakes. True, Hamas has come late to the struggle, but it has started. It may choose unsuitable timing for some operations, but no one should oppose escalating the struggle on the inside against the occupation, nor should Hamas oppose negotiations. It should participate in drawing up rules for the negotiators. [passage omitted]

[Ma'ruf] There is concern that the negotiations in its present form might lead to the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations at the expense of the Palestinian cause.

[Al-Hasan] The aim of what is happening is not to solve the Palestinian issue, otherwise the international legitimacy on the basis of which the negotiations should be held would have been Resolutions 180 and 190, not Resolutions 242 and 338. The main aim is to normalize Arab-Israeli relations.

And since this normalization cannot take place at the level of the masses, something is bound to be offered for the Palestinians, which is why Resolution 242 has been used, because it includes the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Himmah. We hope that the Arabs will understand this and that normalization will not be at the expense of the Palestinian cause. [passage omitted]

Algeria

Two Executed for Conspiracy, Assassinations

LD1101195293 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpt] The Justice Ministry service this evening issued a statement that said that the death sentences passed on Rahmoun Noureddine and Fodil Ahmed for their conspiracy against state security and the perpetration of many assassinations have been carried out in accordance with the law, following the rejection of their request for a pardon. [passage omitted]

Jailed Journalists 'Temporarily' Released

LD0901230093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] APS has reported that the six journalists of the French-language daily EL-WATAN who were jailed last Tuesday [5 January], were temporarily released this evening.

This release follows the temporary release request submitted by the lawyers of the independent newspaper to the investigating magistrate at the court in Algiers. [passage omitted]

Visiting OAU Head Holds Press Conference

LD1101205793 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] At a press conference this afternoon, OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim expounded on issues he touched upon during his meetings with Algerian officials. Fouzia Dadi has followed this press conference:

[Dadi] Before the press conference, OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim touched upon his various meetings with Algerian officials. These meetings focussed on issues concerning the African continent, particularly ways of strengthening cohesion and cooperation between the states of the continent and also questions pertaining to the transition stage witnessed by Africa. He said: I have been very much encouraged by Algeria's support for these issues, and Africa and the OAU must investigate all the conflicts in order to resolve them.

Replying to a question on the financial deficit afflicting the OAU and ways of setting up a peace-keeping force in Africa, the secretary-general answered that the question of peace-keeping must be at the forefront and figure prominently at the OAU. He noted it requires financial resources to set up such a force.

Replying to a question on the Angolan conflict, Mr. Salim expressed great regret at the tragic situation there. The American intervention in Somalia was also dealt with at this conference, and the secretary general considered it a necessary intervention given the situation. He hoped that other African states would draw all the lessons from the experience of Somalia.

Spokesman on Bosnia, Economic, Other Issues

LD1101203193 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The Higher State Council has issued a statement after its latest meeting yesterday which included the points studied during the meeting. The points were dealt with in detail by the official government spokesman Messaoud Ait Chaalal at a news conference today at the government palace. He provided details of the discussions that took place among ministers at the meeting and the decisions adopted by the government.

Ait Chaalal talked about the 1993 finance law. Later, on the international level, he talked about Algeria's stance on the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He also talked about the recent visits of the French foreign minister and the OAU secretary general. Here is a report by Ahmed Ibrahim:

[Ibrahim] The official government spokesman, Messaoud Ait Chaalal, made it clear that the 1993 finance law had been referred to the National Consultative Council, which had made some proposals that were taken into consideration. Ait Chaalal said that the government is determined to maintain the citizen's purchasing power and a balance in prices to control inflation.

The official government spokesman also talked about Algeria's stance regarding the issue of Bosnia-Hercegovina. He said that Algeria was the first country to ask the UN Security Council to intervene to stop the war of genocide waged by the Serbs against the Muslim Bosnian people. The Algerian government strongly condemns that war and the Nazi methods of the Serbian aggression. It reaffirms the Algerian government's and people's solidarity with the Bosnian people in their cause of sovereignty and independence, and for safeguarding their security.

Ait Chaalal also talked about the visits of French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas and OAU Secretary General Salim Ahmed Salim. Regarding the first visit, Ait Chaalal said it was useful and opened new prospects for dialogue between Algeria and France. As for the OAU secretary general's visit, Chaalal said that it also took on importance, since the OAU is a participant in the settlement of the dispute in the Western Sahara. He said that Algeria's stance is unyielding. It is committed to the international resolutions and regards them as a basis for resolving the dispute.

Ministry Asks Citizens To Surrender Rifles

LD0901224493 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Among recent developments at national level is this statement from the Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities which says:

Many attacks on homes have been carried out by armed criminals with the aim of stealing hunting weapons. Thus, within the framework of consolidating preventive security measures and in response to the wish of numerous citizens, the Ministry of the Interior and Local Authorities invites citizens who own hunting rifles to hand over their weapons to the police or the gendarmerie services and for temporary safekeeping.

This exceptional and temporary measure concerns the inhabitants of the central provinces, Algiers, Boumerdes, Blida, Tipaza, Medea, Ain Defla, and Bouira.

Citizens who own hunting rifles for a variety of reasons without a license are also included in these measures. In this respect, they are advised to comply with the directive in order to benefit from the measures for settling the right of possession.

In all cases, a receipt will given to those who hand over their weapons. [passage omitted]

Gendarmerie Dismantles Group Dealing in Firearms

LD1101133193 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Setif Wilaya national gendarmerie services were able to dismantle a group dealing in firearms. Faysal Ghames gathered information on this operation and sent us this report.

[Ghames] This group, which was active in Setif Wilaya, specializes in firearms. According to Setif national gendarmerie, members of this group are not involved in terrorism. However, it was feared that dealing in arms at their possession could reach terrorist elements.

Dismantling this network enabled Setif national gendarmerie services to recover a considerable quantity of weapons, which includes 39 automatic pistols; 70 hunting guns of various calibers, in addition to one Mat-49 machine-gun. [passage omitted]

Egypt

'More Than 10,000' Demonstrate Against Israel in Cairo

NC1201064493 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0530 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] More than 10,000 Egyptian students and citizens demonstrated yesterday in Cairo in support of the deportees. They chanted anti-Israeli slogans, burned Israeli flags, and asked the Egyptian authorities to break relations with the Zionist entity and expel the Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

Interior Ministry Arrests 13 'Prominent' Extremists

NC1101203293 Cairo AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY in Arabic 1916 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (AL-AHRAM PRESS AGENCY)—The Interior Ministry's security forces have arrested 13 prominent members of extremist groups who were hiding in al-Qattamiyah city and al- Hijanah country estate after fleeing from Imbabah and Boulaq al- Dakrur in the wake of the intensified security raids.

Major General Mustafa 'Abd-al-Qadir, assistant interior minister for state security, and Major General Hilmi al-Fiqqi, assistant interior minister for public security, supervised the search campaigns for the fugitive extremists. Muhammad Taha Ahmad Muhammad, the amir of al-Radwan Mosque in Imbabah, and four others were arrested after being discovered hiding in al-Qattamiyah. In the second raid on the al-Hijanah country estate in Nasr city, 'Abdallah Muhammad 'Abd-al-'Aziz, wanted on the charge of making incendiary bombs used by extremistrs in attacks on policemen, was arrested.

'Arafat To Visit Cairo Again 'in Next Few Days'

NC0901134593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1320 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian sources in Cairo have informed MENA that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat will make another visit to Cairo in the next few days. He will hold further discussions with Egyptian officials on several Arab and international issues, notably the developments of the deportees issue, peace in the Middle East, and ways of attaining inter-Arab solidarity and ending inter-Arab tensions.

'Arafat ended a three-day visit to Cairo last Friday.

Study Explains Arab Position on Chemical Weapons Treaty

NC1201085993

[Editorial Report] Government-owned Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic on 8 January publishes on page 7 an approximately 3,000-word report entitled "The Arabs and the Upcoming Chemical Weapons Treaty" prepared by Muhammad 'Abd-al-Salam from the paper's Political and Strategic Studies Center.

The writer begins by stating that the mid-January 1993 signing of the treaty banning chemical weapons "takes on particular importance for the Arab countries." He says that in the past few months, some have expected a clash between certain influential world countries and a number of Arab states over the Arabs' lack of enthusiasm for the treaty. He adds: "But the potential for this clash largely has diminished for various reasons, including the Arab states' approach to the treaty and the fact that the treaty itself, in its final wording, will go through various

stages which may not make it necessary for the states to adopt decisive and immediate positions on it."

The writer, however, notes that the potential for "provocation" still exists, and this may continue to be the case unless some agreement is reached during the meetings of the Working Group on Armament and Security emanating from the multilateral Mideast peace talks.

Noting that the chemical weapons convention—which has not yet become a treaty—raised much debate during its formulation, the writer says Egypt and other countries called for protecting the rights of developing countries against the possibility of depriving them from the chemicals necessary for their development plans. He says Egypt, fearing that the inspection rights may be abused, also demanded that states be protected against any attempts to pressure them politically.

Discussing the Arab position on the treaty, the writer says: "The Arab countries support the ban on the development, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons, encourage their removal from the region, and thoroughly understand the principles on which the treaty was based. They are not opposed to the treaty in principle, although they have reservations about some of its clauses. Indeed, the Arab countries, or some of them, may sign the treaty, but they are not likely to ratify it—that is, they will not fully join the treaty in a way that makes them completely committed to it before a balanced understanding on all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is reached."

The writer explains that the Arabs believe that nuclear weapons, not chemical weapons, pose the greatest threat to regional security. "If the removal of chemical weapons is critical for the regional stability, then a concurrent removal of nuclear weapons is even more important," the writer says. To substantiate this argument, the writer refers to the fact that "only one state in the region possesses nuclear weapons." He says that for one thing, the absence of a counter nuclear deterrent to prevent this state from using its nuclear weapons keeps the situation in the region unstable. For another, it forces the other states in the region to continue attempts to gain nuclear weapons. The writer further maintains that "the Arab countries' possession of chemical capabilities would serve as a deterrent—though minimal—against nuclear weapons, creating a stable situation and relative strategic balance in the region."

The writer then notes some Arab statements linking the Arabs' signing of the chemical weapons treaty to Israel's joining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. He maintains that this will not solve the problem because the latter treaty, unlike the former, prohibits the development and production of nuclear weapons without addressing the nuclear stock that already exists. "While the Arabs will be asked to remove the chemical capabilities they already possess, Israel will retain its nuclear stock untouched."

At the end of his article, the writer discusses the consequences of "signing but not ratifying" the treaty, contending that the Arabs will not be in trouble if they do so. He says the penalties which the influential countries are talking about are linked to the actual use of chemical weapons. "The sanctions," he explains, "are not directly linked to the treaty; they will be imposed—through the Security Council—on any country that uses chemical weapons, even if not member to the treaty." The writer further explains that the sanctions restrict dealing in commercial chemicals and equipment that can be used for chemical weapons production. But he adds that "many of these materials and equipment already are banned." Moreover, he says, the Arabs will have two years before any serious talk about penalties begins, as the procedure for joining the treaty may take at least two years. The writer, continuing to explain why the Arabs should not worry turning their backs on the chemical weapons treaty, finally notes that many large countries, such as China, Pakistan, India, Brazil, and Argentina, do have reservations about the treaty, and some of them may not sign it, which may open the way for new discussions.

Call Against Signing Chemical Weapons Treaty Hailed

NC1201080393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0605 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR commends the call addressed to the Arab world by both Egypt and the Arab League to refrain from signing the Paris international treaty banning chemical weapons, describing this conduct as the sole effective and practical approach to convincing the international community that it cannot continue to discriminate between Israel and other states concerning the type of weapons they are allowed to possess.

In its editorial today, the paper asserts that the Arab stand at the chemical weapons conference will test the international community's seriousness and readiness to treat all states equally.

AL-AKHBAR writes that Arab states approved of the nonproliferation treaty although major Western states, primarily the United States, failed to note that Israel refused to sign this treaty and although Israel is the only state that refuses to open its nuclear facilities to international inspection.

The paper refers in this regard to President Mubarak's initiative calling for declaring the Middle East free of all mass destruction weapons to guarantee real peace in the region. The initiative was backed by many states and strongly rejected by Israel.

Action on Iraq Weighed Against Action on Bosnia

NC1001180593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0610 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—The newspaper AL-AKHBAR wonders which priority is more worthwhile—the urgent threat to intervene and strike Iraq to force it to withdraw aircraft that could be used to prevent aid reaching the Kurds or the situation confronting an entire people in Bosnia-Hercegovina who face the danger of extermination by an enemy who obtains his arms without difficulty and is helped by winter snow and harsh natural circumstances.

In its editorial today, AL-AKHBAR said there is a continuing aggression against a people threatened with extermination, yet the international community takes only slow, stumbling steps although it knows that more people are killed with every moment that passes. This same community hastens to mass navies and air forces to confront a danger, crimes of torture, rape, and murder in camps that pale the Nazi detention camps during World War II. How can we describe such a community?

AL-AKHBAR asks about this happening to the people of Bosnia- Hercegovina while the civilized world is content to watch, flexing its muscles and pooling enormous military potential in the Gulf region to force Iraq to withdraw its anti-aircraft missiles from its territory. The paper says we are not calling to abandon the protection of Iraqi Kurds, but asking for similar protection for the Muslims of Bosnia-Hercegovina.

AL-AHRAM's editorial comments on U.S. President George Bush's warning a few days ago to Serbian Leader Slobodan Milosevic that the United States will intervene militarily should he try to spread the war to Kosovo. The paper says this warning means the United States realizes the serious implications of the continuing aggressive Serb policy, particularly if the war spilled over to the strategically sensitive region of Kosovo, igniting the entire Balkan region and dragging other countries into war.

AL-AHRAM says this shift in U.S. policy also reveals that a slackening in the Western powers' position on the tragedy of Bosnia left thousands dead and millions displaced, a slackening that is calculated within the context of redefining international balances after the disintegration of the security and political system that collapsed with Communism. These balances govern the current negotiations in Geneva in which pre-World War II plans and maps are being proposed to partition Bosnia.

Motives Behind Iraqi Actions in No-Fly Zone Viewed

NC1201073693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0612 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—AL-AHRAM describes the recent Iraqi attempt to move Iraqi missiles to the no-fly Shiite zone in the south as an effort to fabricate an imaginary battle with the West.

In its editorial today, the paper says that Saddam Husayn picked this time to mark the approaching second anniversary of the Gulf war to remind the world that he is still Iraq's ruler and capable of stirring events.

The paper adds that Saddam picked this time specifically, thinking that there is a vacuum in the U.S. Administration due to the expiration of President Bush's term and the beginning of Clinton's. He is trying to intimidate Clinton and dissuade him from maintaining the blockade against Iraq. Saddam also wants to utilize the deteriorating conditions in Russia and the difficulties facing [UK Prime Minister John] Major and [French President Francois] Mitterrand; two things that might hinder a meeting between the big four to adopt a united stand against Iraq.

The paper points out that the Iraqi regime selected that part of the southern Shiite area where the UN embargo does not apply in the same way it does to the Kurdish north. The area is embargoed by the allied states, which he thinks are in no position to stand up to him.

The paper concludes by ridiculing Saddam's attempt, saying that he attempted a show of strength before his people by rejecting the ultimatum addressed to him by the four states, but he soon retreated, as usual, and withdrew his missiles just before the deadline.

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

LD1201114593 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1100 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 12 Jan (KUNA)—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwait's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak of Egypt here today.

The meeting dealt with issues of interest for both countries and ways of reinforcing bilateral ties between Kuwait and Egypt. [passage omitted]

Border Developments Discussed

NC1201101493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0950 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—President Mubarak this morning received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Kuwaiti Ambassador 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Bu'ayjan.

Following the meeting, the Kuwaiti minister stated that he conveyed to President Mubarak greetings from his brother His Highness Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah and Heir Apparent Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah.

The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister said: I talked with his excellency the president about a number of subjects,

primarily the current developments on the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border. He remarked that this issue concerns the state of Kuwait in the first place, as well as the United Nations and the international community.

Shaykh al-Sabah hoped the Iraqi ruler will come back to his senses so that a peaceful solution can be found to these problems instead of resorting to military solutions and the use of force. He remarked that force and military solutions will only inflict harm on the fraternal Iraqi people as well as the region.

Mubarak Receives Russian Parliamentary Delegation

NC0901094493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0848 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received a Russian parliamentary delegation led by Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov at the presidential palace this morning. People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur attended the meeting.

Khasbulatov Comments on Talks

NC0901133393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1214 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—Following President Husni Mubarak's reception of the Russian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov, People's Assembly Speaker Dr. Fathi Surur said that President Mubarak reviewed the Egyptian economic reform experiment with the guests. He noted that Mubarak explained that the success of the experiment was based on being totally honest with the people. This created a conviction about the inevitability of the economic reforms achieving development. The success of the experiment was also due to a gradual implementation of the program.

Surur said that during the reception, President Mubarak welcomed multifaceted cooperation with the Russian Federation and with all the states that used to form the former Soviet Union in all areas, particularly in the economic field. He said that President Mubarak praised the historic ties between the two countries, noting that the High Dam represents a splendid and pioneering example for this cooperation.

Dr. Surur said that Khasbulatov praised the historic Russian- Egyptian ties, noting that an international conference will be held in Russia in March or April to discuss vistas of Russian cooperation with the Arab world. The Russian Parliament speaker said he hopes an Egyptian delegation, including businessmen, will participate in this meeting and discuss the Egyptian economic reform plan, which will be a point of interest at the conference. Dr. Surur noted that Khasbulatov added that economic cooperation is a basic issue in relations between Egypt and the Russian Federation.

The Russian official stressed Russia's rejection of Israel's decision to deport the Palestinians, saying: We declared this unequivocally during our visit to Israel, in the Israeli Knesset, and to the Israeli prime minister. He described the deportation of Palestinians as "a painful incident," stressing that it would "kill" the peace process. He said that the Arab-Israeli negotiations process should continue.

Speaker Khasbulatov said that during his current tour of the Middle East he and his delegation felt the extent of the Arab side's seriousness in the negotiations process with Israel. He said that he also felt that Israel is seriously prepared for negotiations with the Arabs. He pointed out that the Russian parliamentary delegation has held several meetings on economic and political issues. He said: We also discussed issues relating to the stability of peace in the region and held important and extremely useful talks with the parliaments of the countries we visited. He expressed his and his delegation's satisfaction with the talks they held in Egypt.

Foreign Minister Meets Khasbulatov

NC0901213793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa tonight met with a visiting Russian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov.

At the outset of the meeting, the foreign minister expounded Egypt's position on the situation in the Middle East and Egypt's efforts to remove the obstacles facing the peace process, one of these being the Israeli decision to deport Palestinians.

The foreign minister expressed Egypt's hope for the cooperation of the Russian Federation and other permanent members of the UN Security Council in implementing Resolution 799 concerning the return of the Palestinian deportees. The two sides also reviewed bilateral relations and ways of bolstering them in all fields.

Khasbulatov Comments Before Departure

NC1001183393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1805 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Jan (MENA)—A Russian parliamentary delegation led by Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov left Cairo for home today after a five-day visit to Egypt, during which it was received by President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

Khasbulatov said his talks with Egyptian officials were fruitful and covered international and regional topics, especially the Middle East peace issue. He referred to the grave situation created by Israel's expulsion of the Palestinians. He said Russia supports the solution of the Middle East crisis on the basis of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. [passage omitted]

Visiting PRC Delegation Meets With Mubarak

NC1101085993 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received at the Presidential Palace this morning Qian Weichang, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, and the delegation accompanying him. The meeting was attended by Consultative Council Speaker Dr. Mustafa Kamal Hilmi and Dr. Mufid Shihab, chairman of the Consultative Council's Arab Affairs and National Security Committee.

PRC Official Comments After Meeting

NC1101120793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Qian Weichang, vice chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, has expressed his thanks and those of his accompanying delegation for the hospitality they received from President Husni Mubarak, the prime minister, and the Egyptian people during their stay here.

After his meeting today with President Mubarak, the Chinese official said that during their visit, they determined that the Egyptian people have achieved great progress and success in developing their economy and overcoming difficulties, and that this had taken place under President Husni Mubarak and the Egyptian Government.

He pointed out that the Chinese people are confronting similar circumstances and making concerted efforts in this regard. He expressed his belief that there are great opportunities for bilateral cooperation.

He added that the histories of both the Egyptian and Chinese peoples are ancient. I believe this is considered an important basis for achieving growth in both countries.

The Chinese official said that many visits are exchanged between the two countries' officials, which are very important because they contribute toward exchanging opinions and viewpoints regarding improving production, raising standards of living, and realizing peace in the world. This is why we always support and back each other. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Receives Message From Zairian President

NC0901103693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0847 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 9 Jan (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has received a message from Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko on bilateral relations and the situation in Africa.

The message was delivered by General Kabama Baramutukata, commander of the Civil Guard and envoy of the Zairian president [name, title as received]), when President Mubarak received him at the presidential palace today.

Gen. Kabama stressed that relations between Presidents Mubarak and Mobutu Sese Seko are good, adding that the two presidents hold contacts and consultations from time to time to discuss the situation in Africa.

The Zairian envoy said his meeting with President Mubarak focussed on African developments in general and the situation in Somalia in particular.

Asked about military cooperation between Egypt and Zaire, Gen. Kabama said that bilateral cooperation is a fact.

The Zairian envoy arrived in Cairo yesterday evening on a visit considered the second of its kind. He visited Egypt in the second half of December.

Zairian Envoy Departs

NC1101081793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0701 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—General Kabama Baramutukata, Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko's envoy and commander of the Civil Guard [name, title as received], left Cairo this morning for Amsterdam on his way back to his country after a three-day visit to Egypt.

During his visit, the Zairian envoy delivered to President Husni Mubarak an oral message from President Mobutu on the situation in Africa in general and in Zaire in particular, and on events in Africa and bilateral relations.

Assistant Foreign Minister Returns From Eritrea

NC0801161493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 8 Jan (MENA)—Assistant Foreign Minister Ambassador Ibrahim 'Awf returned to Cairo this afternoon following a week-long visit to Eritrea.

In a statement after his arrival, 'Awf said that during this visit he met with the provisional prime minister of Eritrea. He also handed a message from Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to his Eritrean counterpart on ways to strengthen the cooperation between the two countries in all fields.

'Awf said that Egypt will help in the preparations for the public referendum on independence which is scheduled to take place in Eritrea in April.

Libya

Closure of Borders Linked to Upsurge in Violence

PM1101161793 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 10 Jan 93 p4

[Report by Alan George: "Reports of Security Factors Behind Closure of Libyan Borders"]

[Excerpt] London—It has been reported that the Libyan Government's decision to close the Libyan land borders effective the day before yesterday was linked to a recent wave of violence in the country.

The reports revealed that last week three members of a security unit led by 'Abd-al-Salam Zadmah were ambushed and shot to death near the Nar Yunis barracks northeast of Benghazi. In an attempt to catch the culprits, checkpoints were erected on the road leading to the town but, according to these reports, no arrests were made. Tension rose three days ago after the death of Ibrahim Bakkar, Libyan Secretary of the General People's Committee for Justice, in a car accident near Sabratah close to Tripoli as he was on his way back from a visit to Tunisia. According to unconfirmed reports, the accident was a premeditated assassination.

The Libyan news agency said that the land borders were closed because of the massive human and material losses suffered by the Libyan Arab people as a result of the UN sanctions against Libya. It added that "the decision could mean closure of the border crossing points permanently." [passage omitted]

Sudan

Foreign Ministry Expresses Support for Iraq

EA1101195393 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The Foreign Ministry issued a statement today on the threats of the use of force against Iraq unless it withdraws its missile batteries from an area of its own territory. The statement commended Iraq's full commitment to implement all the UN resolutions following the Gulf War and its assumption of responsibility and self-control towards the excesses of others with regard to those resolutions.

The statement confirmed Iraq's right to exercise its sovereignty over all of its territory and airspace, and to stand up to the threats which detract from that right or which harm its sovereignty or territorial integrity.

The statement appealed to all justice and peace loving countries to support Iraq in defending its legitimate rights. It also demanded the lifting of the blockade imposed against the fraternal Iraqi people.

RCC Chairman Opens Transitional Assembly Session

EA1101165193 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and the Council of Ministers, has reiterated the revolution's commitment to giving priority to achieving a peaceful and political solution of the southern problem. He appealed to all the rebel factions to respond to his appeal.

He said this in a speech he addressed to the nation today on the occasion of the start of the second session of the Transitional National Assembly.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the revolution looked forward with hope and optimism to achieving peace, particularly as the rebellion had lost its meaning. The rebellion should realize that there was no benefit in the war. He also said that the administration of the South had been normalized. This was very clear in the big towns where life had returned to normal. Some of the southern areas had contributed to agricultural gains this year.

His excellency said the revolution would work in the coming phase to develop basic services in the south and would also promote the efforts of the Peace and Development Foundation, the Agricultural Bank of Sudan, and the Animal Wealth Bank so that they could contribute effectively to rehabilitating the South.

In his speech, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir reviewed the economic performance in the country and pointed out that GNP had risen 11.3 percent and it was hoped that it would rise 15 percent, which is the highest in the world. He added that the country's grain had livestock exports had doubled while large increases had been achieved in the cement, textile, gas and sugar industries. He noted that, likewise in the services sector, an improvement in the transport and communications systems had been achieved and more roads had been constructed.

The performance of the Sudan Shipping Line and Sudan Airways had also risen. In the field of energy, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the performance of the hydroelectric and thermal power stations had risen and work was continuing to develop and construct new stations. He added that the Abu Jabrah petroleum pumping station had been opened. The station was built by Sudanese personnel.

His excellency announced that the end of this year would witness the spread of basic education. This should be followed soon by compulsory education.

His excellency called for a national campaign to collect taxes in order to finance vital activities from real revenue. With regard to lessening the burden on citizens, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the revolution had accepted the recommendations of the Higher Salaries and Wages Council. Salaries and wages, as well as pensions, would be increased with effect from 1 January this year.

Turning to foreign policy, Lt. Gen. al-Bashir said the revolution would continue to work for the expansion of diplomatic activities in Africa and Asia. Sudan would also continue to strive to strengthen its relations with other countries. He stressed that Sudan would build its foreign policy on mutual respect and international legitimacy. He announced that eight new embassies had been opened to strengthen foreign relations.

He also announced that the digging of the Rahad and Kinanah canals would begin at the end of this month in order to expand the area under cultivation.

Comments on Hala'ib, Egypt Relations

EA1101194193 Khartoum SUNA in English 1642 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Khartoum, 11 Jan (SUNA)—Chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] 'Umar al-Bashir, has affirmed Sudan's firm stance in support of Arab and Islamic unity. Addressing the nation from the Transitional National Assembly, TNA, Gen. Bashir said Monday [11 January] that the Sudan remained adherent to its attitude of supporting Arab and Islamic unity when the Hala'ib issue erupted. He indicated that the Sudan did not spare efforts toward peaceful settlement of the problem.

Gen. Bashir has reviewed the continuous diplomatic efforts to solve Hala'ib question. He accused the Egyptian Government of deploying military forces, establishing military stations, attempting to change border marks and assigning special budgets for implementing new establishments at Hala'ib area, referring [to] the statements of Egyptian officials on Hala'ib issue and Egyptian military attack on the Sudanese policemen at Abu Ramad area last April which led to [the death] of two Sudanese policemen.

The RCC chairman pointed out that the Sudan has recently called on the Security Council to take measures toward withdrawal of the Egyptians from the Sudanese Hala'ib area [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Government Reacts to More Iraqi Border Violations

Second Incursion Reported

LD1101162893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1551 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Jan (KUNA)—An Iraqi group infiltrated into the Kuwaiti side of the Umm Qasr border area this morning in the second blatant violation of Kuwaiti sovereignty in two days. 'Abd-al-Latif Kabbaj, the spokesman for the UN Mission Observers at the Kuwaiti-Iraqi border, said that between 100 and 120 Iraqis crossed the northern border at 1000 [0700 GMT] today and started dismantling military depots. He added that the Iraqis took away the remaining contents of military depots, electric cables, and other civilian equipment from the Umm Qasr border area. [passage indistinct]

UNIKOM on Third Incursion

LD1201105993 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Excerpt] 'Abd-al-Latif Kabbaj, the UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission [UNIKOM] spokesman, announced that the Iraqi regime this morning continued its violation of the territories under UNIKOM observation in the demilitarized zone inside Kuwait's border with Iraq. The spokesman said that between 150 and 160 Iraqis, in civilian clothes, entered the demilitarized zone inside the Kuwaiti border, dismantled prefabricated homes, and left with all they could carry from an area 2 km south of the town of Umm Qasr inside the border.

This happened despite warnings made this morning by the UN Security Council to the Iraqi regime condemning its repeated violations of the cease-fire resolutions pertaining to the war for the liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

[Kuwait KUNA in Arabic at 1005 GMT on 12 January, in a Kuwait- datelined report, notes: "Official UNIKOM spokesman 'Abd- al-Latif Kabbaj said that Iraqi elements, estimated at 160 persons, entered the demilitarized zone on the Kuwaiti side this morning and requisitioned civilian equipment. Kabbaj told KUNA that the Iraqis are carrying out these actions in the demilitarized zone between the two countries without obtaining the permission of the UN and the Kuwaiti Government. He pointed out that when the UNIKOM members currently present in the border region asked the Iraqi elements infiltrating the Kuwaiti borders about the reasons for this behavior, they pointed out that they were in a hurry due to the pressure of time, Kuwait's imminent receipt of all the property in the region, and Iraq's nonentitlement to reclaim any of its property inside Kuwait after this date." The KUNA report goes on to note that this is the third Iraqi violation in the past 48 hours, motivating the Security Council and the United States to threaten Iraq over the consequences of its actions and demand the return of seized weapons.]

UN Urged To Condemn 'Violation'

LD1101203993 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1930 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 11 January (KUNA)—Kuwait has strongly condemned the Iraqi violation of its international borders over the last two days, describing this as an infringement of the international will as represented by the UN observer commission.

This came in a statement tonight by a Foreign Ministry spokesman to KUNA.

The spokesman called on the UN Security Council, at its meeting tonight, to take a decisive stand in condemning the Iraqi regime and its violation of Kuwait's rights and sovereignty. The following is the text of the Foreign Ministry spokesman's statement:

Since 2 January 1993, the Kuwait-Iraq border region in the demilitarized zone, controlled by the UN observer forces, has been the target of several penetrations by the Iraqi regime, in violation of UN resolutions and in intimidating defiance of international will. The observer forces have since then been keeping a record of these violations which they have submitted to the competent UN authorities.

Perhaps the most serious of these violations was the crossing of the border on Sunday, 10 January, by about 200 Iraqi troops on their way to six arms depots when they were blocked by the UN observer forces who put up barriers to prevent them getting through. However, the group ignored the UN force's orders and went on to pillage the contents of those depots, taking weapons and ammunition, including four Silkworm missiles which were due to be destroyed on 16 January.

The spokesman added: "In the light of these provocative infringements of all the arrangements agreed upon between the United Nations and the Iraqi side, the Security Council has called an urgent consultation session to discuss this critical situation, and it is expected to pass a decisive resolution condemning the Iraqi regime."

Kuwait has followed developments with deep interest, extreme caution, and continuous coordination with the UN observer forces and friendly countries. The latest of these meetings was held on Monday at the Foreign Ministry between Foreign Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahim and General Dibuama, commander of the observer forces. An exchange of all relevant information took place between the two sides regarding this aggression. Our delegation in New York was also entrusted to convey Kuwait's stand regarding this aggression to the chairman and members of the Security Council.

While condemning Iraq's violation of its international borders, Kuwait considers it as aggression against the international will represented by the UN observers.

Prime Minister on Security

LD1101155693 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1425 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Kuwait, 11 Jan (KUNA)—The Council of Ministers held an extraordinary meeting this afternoon chaired by his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim Al Sabah, and attended by members of the Supreme Defense Council, the Foreign Ministry undersecretary, and Ministry of Health representatives.

'Abd-al-Aziz Dahkil al-Dakhil, minister of state for cabinet affairs, said that the meeting was devoted to the discussion of new developments in the situation at the border region under UN supervision, following repeated violations by the Iraqi regime of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, as part of its attempt to impede their implementation.

Al-Dakhil said that his highness the heir apparent and prime minister opened the meeting by briefing the Council on the outcome of contacts that had taken place between the authorities concerned and UN officials, which had covered details of these developments and the steps taken in this regard.

He added that his highness had explained to the Council the political moves being made at UN Security Council level to deal with these developments, bring an end to the Iraqi regime's violation of resolutions of international legitimacy, and ensure its commitment to their implementation in full so as to reinforce peace and stability in the region.

Minister al-Dakhil said that the Council had examined the various preparations made by the concerned authorities within the framework of plans already laid down for dealing with emergencies. This was done in light of submissions made by ministers and competent officials on these preparations in various sectors, with the aim of providing reassurance to the citizens and to guaranteeing the essentials of stability in the country.

He pointed out that, at the end of the meeting, his highness the heir apparent and prime minister, made clear to the Council the delicate nature of the present stage and the need to mobilize all capabilities and consolidate all efforts for the reinforcement of the country's security and stability.

Information Minister Comments on Iraq, Jordan

PM1201103193 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 9 Jan 93 p 5

[Interview with Kuwaiti Information Minister Shaykh Sa'ud Nasir al-Sabah by Khalil Matar in New York; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted]

[Matar] The Iraqis believe that the Kuwaiti aspect of Resolution 687 has been implemented and that the outstanding problem concerns only Iraqi military possessions...

[Al-Sabah] No, Iraq has not fulfilled all its commitments toward Kuwait. Part of Resolution 687 (the cease-fire resolution) concerns border demarcation, and Iraq is refusing to implement this in the manner agreed by the independent international commission and did not even attend its recent meetings.

There is also the prisoners issue, as Iraq is refusing to allow the International Red Cross Committee to move freely in Iraq to search for them.

All these tricks are nothing but irrefutable evidence of Iraq's unwillingness to comply with the Security Council resolutions. This is in addition to the political aspect of the game being played by Iraq, which thinks that the change of U.S. administration will lead to a change in the U.S. position and hopes to make some achievements in this connection, like easing the sanctions or changing the U.S. approach toward Iraq. But I have no doubt whatsoever that, as far as Iraq is concerned, matters will remain as they stand, because U.S. policy toward it is fixed as drawn up by the present administration. And the incoming administration will continue it, especially as U.S. public opinion and the international community are convinced of it. [passage omitted]

[Matar] There is much talk at present about Iranian nuclear weapons and new Iranian ambitions. Will this issue pose real Iranian threats to the region? And will Iraq play this card again with the incoming U.S. Administration?

[Al-Sabah] Yes, Iraq could play that card, because Iraq is trying to exaggerate fears of Iran in order to find a justification for the lifting of the embargo imposed on it. Without doubt there are moves with regard to Iranian armament. But Iran is a large and neighboring state, and we should be cautious in our dealings with it so that there will be no room for any kind of disagreement between the region's states and Iran.

Of course, there are some matters over which we differ with Iran and which should be resolved one way or another. While there are fears, there is also satisfaction that the present ruling regime in Iran is more reasonable and understanding and does not wish to enter into a conflict with the Arab world, because it is not in Iran's or the region's interests. And because any Iranian interference of this kind would increase the foreign presence in this region. So we say that, if Iran wants to act in such a manner, it will have to bear the responsibility for the foreign forces' extensive presence in the region. This should be taken into account, because neither the United States nor the other states would stand with their hands tied in the face of any expansionist Iranian move.

The main, or even the only, threat facing us is the continuation of the regime's presence in Iraq and its military, media, and other threats to the region.

While saying this, I must also stress that the existence of a vacuum in Iraq could cause other problems and could encourage Iran to embark on some adventures. We hope that another Iraqi regime will emerge—a regime that is reasonable and deals with states equally and wisely. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Have the Iranians returned all the aircraft Iraq smuggled to them? And do you still have any problem with them as a result of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait?

[Al-Sabah] Yes, they have returned all the aircraft, and we have no direct problems with them.

[Matar] Let us review your relations with some Arab states. Is it possible, for example, to reassess your relations with Jordan?

[Al-Sabah] I cannot imagine any early move toward resuming relations with Jordan or returning matters to normal, for numerous reasons, first and foremost Jordan's position on the invasion was disgraceful. And the Kuwaiti people will not forget this position. And, as the heir apparent said, the wounds are deep, and in no way can we pursue a policy of letting bygones be bygones. [passage omitted]

[Matar] Has King Husayn presented any initiative to improve relations?

[Al-Sabah] King Husayn is completely implicated with Saddam Husayn. And Saddam Husayn's remaining in power does not allow King Husayn to change his position because of this implication.

[Matar] And what about his call for toppling Saddam?

[Al-Sabah] It is just for local consumption, because his position has weakened a lot, and at present he lives in isolation with Saddam.

I receive Jordanian and Iraqi newspapers regularly, and if you scrutinize them, you will find that the Jordanian press attacks us more than the Iraqi press does. May God forgive them. I do not know what we have done to them to deserve this treatment. Matters will return to normal when conditions and circumstances change. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Press Views Iraqi Violations on Kuwaiti Border

LD1201135793 Riyadh SPA in English 1245 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Riyadh, Jan 12, SPA—Saudi newspapers commented editorially today on a number of regional and international issues with special emphasis on Iraq's repeated violation of international decisions. The Dammam-based AL-YAWM said the Iraqi regime during one week committed two violations against Kuwait when its forces attacked the Kuwaiti al-'Azimiyah border center and infiltration of Iraqi forces crossing of Kuwaiti borders at Umm al-Qasr region.

The paper said these two incidents have coincided with the tension existing between Iraq and United States over the deployment of Iraqi anti-aircraf missiles in southern Iraq. The paper said the Iraqi regime was once again trying to defy the will of the international world.

The Jeddah-based 'UKAZ said once again and through its provacative attitude the Iraqi regime has created a new crisis with the United Nations when it denied UN planes carrying international inspection teams landing right at Iraqi airports. The paper noted the Iraqi regime violation of UN resolutions and orders as Iraqi forces shot out at a Kuwaiti border post and infiltrated into Kuwaiti territories to retrieve arms from a disputed naval base.

The paper said the international community should deal firmly with such acts before the situation spells out to engulf the region in new hostilities. The paper said the Iraqi regime as usual will heed attention to any warnings or resolutions and only understands the language of force and immediate and direct punishment. [as received]

Another Jeddah-based paper, AL-BILAD said the Iraqi people were paying the price of the Iraqi regime foolish acts. The paper said the head of the Iraqi regime was always trying to keep the region in tension and conflicts. The Riyadh-based AL-JAZIRAH said there was a silent alliance between Tel Aviv, Serbia and Iraq. The paper said this troika was very dangerous to the new world order and warned against their destructive plots against humanity. AL-JAZIRAH said all three parties were defying and ignoring the decisions of the world community.

Meanwhile, AL-MADINAH commented on the current extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers in Cairo and said the meeting was scheduled to discuss the plight of Palestinian refugees whose problem has entered its third week without any sign from Israel that it would implement the Security Council resolution 799 regarding the return of deportees to their homeland. The paper said the meeting would expose the intentions of the Israeli enemy which was challenging the world community and was undermining peace process in the Middle East.

Government Claims Removal of Equipment Approved by UN

NC1101131593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1255 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Sa'id al-Sahhaf has admitted that Iraqi troops penetrated the international border with Kuwait at dawn yesterday. He said these troops represent working teams for private contracting companies in Iraq. These teams made this step to transport the remaining equipment of the Iraqi forces left there during the Kuwait war, Minister al-Sahhaf added.

The Iraqi minister's statement was made following his meeting with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid at noon today. The Iraqi minister refrained from responding to correspondents' questions on whether the UN forces' commander in Iraq had requested an urgent meeting with him to inform him that the Iraqi forces had penetrated the international borders at dawn yesterday and seized missiles and weapons belonging to the Iraqi Army.

The Iraqi minister added that these teams have entered Kuwait in accordance with an agreement with UN forces' commander General Dubois to transport the equipment by 15 January.

UN Official on Agreement

JN1101204193 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1917 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] We have just received the following: Joe Sills, the official UN spokesman, at noon today confirmed in New York that an agreement was reached with Iraq in 1990 [as heard] to remove items stored at a navy base, the Arabian Gulf base, because they were all Iraqi property.

The official UN spokesman added: In view of the fact that the head of the UN observers mission on 24 January 1992 informed Iraq that it must quickly remove these items and complete the removal before 15 January 1993, the Iraqi authorities this week acted to complete the removal before the 15 January 1993 deadline.

Arab League Envoy Comments

NC1201122693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 12 Jan (MENA)—Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent delegate to the Arab League, has stated that the entry into Kuwaiti territory by Iraqi troops has been repeated more than once.

He remarked that this process was agreed with the United Nations in order to retrieve what the Iraqi troops had left behind during the Gulf war.

INA Refutes Equipment Removal

JN1101195493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1912 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Reacting to the clamor and allegations stirred up by the U.S. Administration over the removal of material from the demilitarized zone in southern Iraq, the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY political editor has said:

What happened in the region was an operation to remove Iraqi material, which includes civilian items and equipment not prohibited by the pertaining UN resolutions. The removal was approved by the head of the observers mission who informed us of his approval of the removal on 29 December 1992 [as heard], provided the operation was completed by 15 January 1993.

The INA political editor said: The competent Iraqi authorities have signed a contract with a civilian contractor to complete the removal by the set date. It is natural for the contractor to employ an appropriate number of workers to complete the work within the short timeframe set by the head of the observers team. All workers were civilians, as acknowledged by the spokesman for the observers, 'Abd-al-Latif Qabaj, in his statements to CNN this morning. The spokesman also said that the observers have set a timeframe for the removal, ending on 15 January.

The editor added: What the U.S. Administration said regarding the Iraqi authorities' plan to destroy what is called Camp Khawr, the camp of the UN observers, on 11 January, is a mere fabrication. The facts surrounding this issue are as follows:

A. The name Camp Khawr was the name given by the observers to an Iraqi camp located in the Arabian Gulf base area.

B. The observers occupied the aforementioned camp despite the fact that Iraq allocated only the Arabian Gulf base hospital for this purpose.

C. The camp includes installations, materiel, and caravans which belong to Iraq, and which are covered under the removal process. On 9 January, the observers were informed of our desire to begin the removal process. The chief observer asked for permission to continue using the caravans and materiel without presenting a stand on their removal on the pretext of consulting with his points of reference. He was given two days to resolve the issue. Later, the chief observer requested that the observers were continuing to use the caravans and materiel due to the difficulty of arranging housing for the observer team members and finding alternative materiel for them, and in order to maintain the materiel the observers placed in the installations.

Approval was issued in response to the chief observer's desire to continue to occupy the installations and caravans with observers in return for a letter in which he would prove that the installations and caravans belong to Iraq, and that they are covered by the removal process

which will take place after some time and which should be agreed upon with the competent Iraqi authorities.

D. Reviewing A to C, it becomes clear that the so-called Camp Khawr is not an installation which belongs to the observers, that there is no intention or idea concerning the alleged destruction, and that the matter is an execution of the removal process which was basically approved by the chief observer.

The INA political editor stressed: Based on the above, Iraq made no violations of the demilitarized zone, neither did it interfere in the observers work, nor did it carry out any provocative act against this zone. We reject allegations in this regard.

INA learned that Nizar Hamdun, Iraq's permanent representative to the United Nations, conveyed these points to the UN Security Council president today.

Assembly Denounces U.S. 'Aggression'

JN1201080993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1725 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—The Iraqi National Assembly has called on world parliaments to denounce the aggressive policy of the United States and its allies, Britain and France, against Iraq, which targets its sovereignty, security, independence, the unity of its people, and its internal affairs.

In a statement issued today, the National Assembly said: The United States and its allies, Britain and France, interpret the UN Security Council resolutions against Iraq, particularly Resolution 688, in a manner that serves their own interests, in violation of the UN Charter, without taking into consideration the grave and premeditated harm and injustice to which the Iraqi people are being exposed, which conflict with the simplest humanitarian treatment recognized by international norms and charters.

In its statement, the Assembly added: The aggressive policy of the United States and its allies was exposed very clearly when a no-fly zone was imposed on Iraqi planes operating in the south of the country. This policy was further exposed when these states of the aggression perpetrated another crime by downing an Iraqi plane on a routine flight in Iraqi air space.

The Assembly statement noted: What further exposes the nature of the aggressive policy America and its allies adopt against Iraq is the fabricated crisis of the defensive missiles which have been in southern Iraq since 2 August 1990, and later the arrogant ultimatum they issued to Iraq to withdraw these missiles, something which is aimed at carrying out a military action and new aggression.

The statement added: Iraq is an independent country and exercises its sovereignty, which gives it the right to defend itself by deploying its missiles in accordance with international norms and charters, particularly Article 51 of the UN Charter.

In its statement, the Assembly warned world parliaments and peoples against ignoring this aggressive policy of the United States and its allies against the Iraqi people, especially since this policy could be implemented against any other people or country which adopts a free and independent policy, away from the policy of subservience the United States and its allies are trying to impose on the people and states of the world.

'Olive Branch' Extended

JN1201084693 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0720 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 12 Jan (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that the doors for peace, dialogue, and understanding opened by Iraq are still open to all those who try to enter and realize the peace and security that guarantees Iraq's legitimate rights to independence and sovereignty.

In an article published today, the newspaper alluded to the magnitude of the political and media deception being carried out by the criminal Bush against Iraq, and said that the wise Iraqi leadership realized his criminal methods and intentions, as well as his desperate attempts to harm the Iraqi leadership, people, and sovereignty. The newspaper described as exposed and devious criminal Bush's deceptive attempts to drag the Clinton administration into the maelstrom of crises before he takes office.

The newspaper affirmed that Iraq, in terms of its interests and right to exercise its legitimate rights and sovereignty over its territory, is not concerned in the least with who will occupy the Oval Office in the White House. Iraq's concern is connected with its position of not allowing anyone to encroach on its sovereignty and national legitimate rights.

The paper recalled statements by the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party expressing pride in its principled stand and its rejection of the language of threats, and said that Iraq is extending an olive branch and openly welcoming opportunities for understanding, dialogue, peace, and an abandonment of the language of war.

Concluding its article, the paper said that the language of threats is eroding. It can no longer send fear into the hearts of the Iraqis who have crossed the threshold of fear toward the shores of glory and pride.

Armed Forces Said Stronger Than During Gulf War

LD1101230993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2215 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Jan (INA)—A high-ranking Iraqi official at the Military Industrialization Authority said that Iraq is at present in possession of an air and missile

force more capable than it was before the 30-state aggression, and it is capable of defending the land and the skies of Iraq.

Lieutenant General Engineer Amir Rashid, director of the Military Industrialization Authority, was speaking at a meeting hosted by Iraqi Television tonight, attended by Mr. Hamid Sa'id, the political writer, and retired Major General Safa Ahmad Khalil, a military expert in air defense affairs. He said that air defense plans are being laid down so as to secure the safety of the airspace of Iraq, in line with the urgent requirements of the military situation, and that the Iraqi missiles have been there in all parts of Iraq, and the southern region in particular, during all the past period.

He added that the Iraqi Armed Forces, and particularly the air defense and the air force, have been able to recover their activity and to rebuild in a way that enables them to perform their proper role in defending Iraq against any aggression from the air and from any quarter.

He also said that there are Iraqi missiles placed in particular formations, according to military requirements and to deal with enemy air threats coming from whatever quarter. He pointed out that the command's wise decision to avoid military confrontation with the enemy required suspending aircraft training and monitoring operations so as to deny the enemy the opportunity to stage battle or to use such operations for their own purposes.

He explained that the Iraqi aircraft in due course resumed their normal training and monitoring activities in the usual areas, including south of what is called the 32d Parallel. General Amir Rashid said that U.S. aircraft had tried to engage Iraqi aircraft which were carrying out their duties. He indicated that after the Iraqi aircraft resumed their peaceful activities, consisting of training and observation, U.S. aircraft tried to oppose them. The Iraqi aviation then issued a warning, which is a normal practice in all the world's air forces. This led to several clashes with U.S. aircraft prior to the downing of the Iraqi aircraft.

He further said that the missile batteries have been on constant alert. They have been [word indistinct] in a way which ensures an air defense effort capable of repelling the enemy and preventing them from carrying out any attack against the Iraqi air force which is carrying out its duty in a peaceful way; this is a legitimate right and a self-defense which is not aimed at downing any U.S. aircraft.

General Amir Rashid stressed that opening the missile batteries and placing them in a way that would make the U.S. aircraft miss the opportunity of achieving their purpose had caused terror to the U.S. aircraft and forced them to steer about 100 km clear of the region, to avoid clashes with Iraqi aircraft in the areas where there are a large number of missiles [sentence as received].

The meeting dealt with the main motives behind the escalation of the anti-Iraq campaign by the Bush administration, which has focused on the presence of our air defenses and missiles in our national territory, and also the media escalation, with its bullying and spreading of misinformation about Iraq's right of sovereignty over its national territory.

The meeting revealed the falsehood of the allegations of the Bush administration to the effect that Iraq submitted to the threats of the United States and its allies in calling on Iraq to withdraw its missiles and defensive armament from the line from which they allege they have the right to ban the Iraqis. The discussion illustrated the reasons for the escalation of the crisis and the political and military aspects which accompanied this obvious increase in the escalation of the campaign against Iraq and the choice of the appropriate time for it, which coincides with the departure of the Bush administration and the takeover by Bill Clinton, the new President.

Defense Minister Visits Military Operations

Tours Army Units

JN1101181693 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1710 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has visited the al-Qadisiyah forces' sector of operations.

During a meeting with the al-Qadisiyah forces commander, who holds the rank of a staff major general, the defense minister heard a detailed report on the nature of preparedness of the valiant formations of the Army corps [not further identified], as well as the high morale of its heroic fighters, who are prepared to sacrifice their lives to defend great Iraq and face the unjust colonialist U.S. threats against the unity of our people and the sanctity of Iraq's sky and land.

The fighters of the al-Qadisiyah forces pledged to the leader president, Staff Field Marshal Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him, to remain stalwart men tested on the field of battle in Saddam's glorious al-Qadisiyah battle [war with Iran] and the major historic duel in the eternal Mother of Battles—men who wrote the most splendid epics for the sake of the country's glory and sovereignty and the honor of its proud people.

The meeting was attended by the comrade secretary of the al-Qadisiyah Military Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, who holds the rank of a brigadier general.

In a related development, Staff Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, Revolution Command Council member and defense minister, has met with the commander of the al-Qadisiyah forces, the commanders of Army divisions operating in the sector, the comrade secretaries of the Ba'th Party sections, Army corps staff officers, and commanders of formations.

During the meeting, the defense minister reviewed the political and military situation in view of yesterday's statement by the official spokesman of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, and in view of the criminal U.S. insistence on violating Iraq's sovereignty by fabricating the so-called crisis over deploying Iraqi air defense weapons in the southern sector as a cover for a new aggression against our people and sacred land.

He said that Bush's corrupt, failed administration has in its final days been searching for further evil, illegitimate intentions to achieve its hostile objectives and harm the steadfast people of Iraq.

Defense Minister Gen. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid urged the fighters to show a balanced vigilance in the face of the U.S. injustice and tyrannical aggression to stop the enemies from intervening in the affairs of free, independent peoples.

The meeting was attended by the comrade secretary of the al-Qadisiyah Military Branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

Visits Navy Command

JN1101202793 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Staff General 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, member of the Revolution Command Council and defense minister, today visited the Naval Forces Command. He met with the staff brigadier general commander of the Naval Force, who briefed al-Majid on the nature of the naval units' work, their readiness, and the high morale of the fighters to defend the homeland against the attempts of the American enemies who continue their injustice and aggressions against the coherence and unity of our lofty people and their legitimate aspirations to live with dignity and honor without interference in their internal affairs or encroachment on their national sovereignty.

The defense minister praised the heroic stand of the brave men of the Navy and their generous sacrifices during the glorious Saddam's al-Qadisiyah and the great duel, the glorious ongoing Mother of Battles.

Al-Majid also met at the Naval Forces Command today with the fighters, the brigadier general commander of the Naval forces, commanders of formations, and the heads of sections. He explained to them the political and military situation in light of the statement of the official spokesman of the Revolution Command Council and the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party in response to the lying American trumpets.

Al-Majid also met at the al-Basrah military branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party with the comrade secretary and several members of the branch. He inquired about the progress of the party organization work and the activities of the comrades which reinforce the morale of the fighters and kindle their enthusiasm in carrying out their daily tasks.

Al-Sahhaf, Arab League Secretary Discuss Crisis

JN1101140093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jan (INA)—Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf today met with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid. They discussed a number of important issues, as well as the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers' extraordinary meeting, scheduled to start here tonight.

Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf explained in detail the U.S. threats against Iraq's sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity. He also asserted Iraq's firm position to confront all these attempts that seek to infringe on its sovereignty and security. The foreign minister also reviewed the measures Iraq has taken to affirm the soundness of its position from all aspects.

He also stressed that the Arab states are required to take a stand to support and confirm Iraq's inalienable right to confront these threats and its legitimate right to self defense.

The minister also asserted Iraq's concern for joint Arab action within the framework of the Arab League and its desire to maintain the existing cooperation between Iraq and the Arab League.

The Arab League secretary general praised the results achieved by his personal envoy Rashid Idris during his recent visit to Iraq. He also voiced appreciation for the support given to Idris. He also stressed he will continue efforts to help alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people which results from the imposed blockade.

The meeting was attended by Ambassador Nabil Najm, Iraq's permanent envoy to the Arab League, and Mr. Taha al-Dawud, member of the National Assembly's Arab and International Relations Committee.

Al-Sahhaf said that his talks with Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid today dealt with the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners. He said that he told the secretary general that Iraq offers all its capabilities to facilitate the return of those prisoners. He said that some 2,000 Kuwaitis are in Iraq and are not imprisoned. He maintained that these people are classified as "stateless" and that Kuwait refuses to accept them.

Asked about reports that Iraq has refused to receive the UN teams to inspect Iraq's nuclear weapons, the Iraqi minister said that Iraq has no objection to receiving these teams, but they must arrive on board Iraqi aircraft. He pointed out that the current dispute with the United Nations revolves around the type of aircraft used in the inspections and around Iraq's failure to offer air services to non-Iraqi aircraft.

To another question about the statement made by the UN forces commander that the Iraqi forces penetrated the border with Kuwait [on 10 January] and suspended

the operations of the committee in charge of the demarcation of international borders, the Iraqi minister said: There is nothing new in the Iraqi stand on the border demarcation issue.

Ba'th Party Congress Issues Statement

JN1001135393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1000 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Baghdad, 10 Jan (INA)—Leader comrade Saddam Husayn has stressed that the Ba'th Party is a new party of a new ideology; it opted for the path that promoted the nation's struggle to a new level; it is the path of conception and historic action.

In a historic speech inaugurating the 12th pan-Arab congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, congress of the Mother of Battles, which was concluded at the end of last year, leader comrade Saddam Husayn said that convening the congress in Baghdad brings to mind the meanings of the great bright historic effect of the immortal Mother of Battles on the new Arab era and invokes the spirit of jihad by the people of stone-throwing and faith in beloved Palestine and in every arena where the sons of the nation and the sons of the Ba'th recorded what they did under the headings of struggle, principles, aspiration, and zeal.

The leader comrade said: We have chosen the path of renaissance [Ba'th], as it is, right from the beginning. We have chosen it while renewing the pledge that has never ceased to exist for a day or even a momemnt. We have selected the path of the immortal mission, the path of great Ba'th for our nation. It is a choice representing a process of new advancement for the nation. He said: When our congress convenes today, continuity is realized and similarity in circumstances and many other images and trends between it and the first congress is noted more than in any other congress.

He added: When the first congress convened in 1947, the Ba'th Party was not the only option available for its members. The Ba'th was not the only logic, nor was its party the only means to relatively improve the conditions of the Arab nation. There were various methods in every Arab country, but they fell short of advancing the country and nation in a comprehensive and profound spiritual and cultural manner characterized by continuity and permanence as sought by the great Ba'th.

Leader comrade Saddam Husayn noted the absence of late leader founder Michel 'Aflaq and said: We sense a vital absence from our congress as the founder of the party and Ba'th ideology has departed the way a shining moon disappears.

In view of the directives contained in comrade leader Saddam Husayn's speech for the attainment of the optimal, most accurate and paramount substantiation of the party's ideology, three committees were set up: These are the political committee which discussed the draft political report; the organizational committee which discussed the draft organizational report; and the committee on the constitution and the bylaws which discussed the draft plans and recommendations about them.

These committees discussed the reports and the recommendations and submitted them to the congress which adopted them in their final form and made decisions on all party-related issues and reviewed the situation in all Arab countries, as well as all pan-Arab and international affairs.

The following are the most important general points of the political report that was adopted by the 12th pan-Arab Ba'th Party Congress:

Political statement of the 12th pan-Arab Congress of the Arab

Socialist Ba'th Party, the Mother of Battles Congress, 10 January

1993

The 12th pan-Arab congress of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Mother of Battles congress ended its work in late 1992.

The congress opened its deliberations with a historic speech by President leader Saddam Husayn which he began as follows: In the name of God, the people, and the Ba'th and with God's blessings we open our 12th congress, the Mother of Battles congress while sensing a vital absence from our congress as the founder of the party and Ba'th ideolgy has departed the way a shining moon disappears, reaffirming the continuity in the spirit of jihad and in the mission between the first constituent congress of the party in 1947 and the Mother of Battles congress.

When our congress convenes today, continuity is realized and similarity in circumstances and many other images and trends between it and the first congress is noted more than in other congress. When the first congress was held in Damascus in 1947, the Ba'th Party was not the only option available for its members. The Ba'th was not the only logic, nor was its party the only means to relatively improve the conditions of the Arab nation. There were various methods in every Arab country, but they fell short of advancing the country and nation in a comprehensive and profound spiritual and cultural manner characterized by continuity and permanence as sought by the great Ba'th.

The Ba'th, as the comrade leader defined in his speech, is a new party of a new ideolgy that has chosen the path that promoted the nation's struggle to a new level; the path of conception and historic action.

He added that today, the Ba'th congress is being held while its mujahid and struggler party is everywhere, in Baghdad [city of Caliph Harun] al-Rashid, July [revolution], second al-Qadisiyah [Iraq-Iran war], and the Mother of Battles; while we are inspiring the meanings of

the great and bright historical action of the eternal Mother of Battles in the Arabs' new age; and while we are evoking the spirit of jihad of the faithful stone-throwing people in beloved Palestine and in every arena where the sons of the nation and the Ba'th Party achieved what they have achieved under the slogans of struggle, principles, aspirations, and zeal, inspiring all this from the same common springs in order to make progress and to advance ahead, along with the teachings included in the message we are carrying for the nation and through it for mankind.

In an encounter with oneself, history, and God, the comrade leader expressed the Ba'thists faithful jihad, saying: May God be our witness that we have chosen the Ba'th path from the beginning. We have chosen it to renew the pledge, which was never broken for a single day or a single minute, to be the path of the eternal message of the great resurrection of our nation. It is a choice which constitutes a new process of progress for the nation. He then asked his comrades at the congress: After what we have said, I have the following legitimate question: Could not we, along with our party, have been better? Cannot our progress be faster and more accurate? He then gave them the answer: The answer is yes, we could have been better had we wanted to be so. The answer to this lies in how to achieve this, and this is something we are meeting for.

In light of leader President Saddam Husayn's instructions, the congress' meetings began. Three committees were formed:

A. The Political Committee to discuss the draft political report and to make decisions and recommendations on it.

B. The Organizational Committee to discuss the draft organizational report and the plan on pan-Arab awakening which are submitted to the congress, and to make proposals and recommendations in this regard.

C. The Committee on the Constitution and Bylaws to discuss plans and recommendations proposed on them.

These committees have discussed the reports and recommendations, and submitted them to the congress, which issued them in their final form, made decisions on various party issues, and reviewed the situations in the Arab countries and all the national and pan-Arab issues. The following are the most important general points of the political report which was approved by the congress:

A. The Political Report:

The first part focuses on theoretical bases and discusses developments in both theoretical and practical areas of Arab unity, freedom, democracy, and socialism, and on economic and social issues in a way that will reinforce the great Ba'th principles and creative mode of action by exposing the false doctrines which prevailed in the world for quite a while and which have already fallen or are about to fall.

Research into Arab unity has proceeded from a point of recognizing a certain reality which cannot be obliterated or ignored—a reality that modern pan-Arab unionist thought, as the founder leader put it, has crystallized with the appearance of the Ba'th, which launched the idea of pan-Arabism in a scientific and human manner which defined its democratic and socialist implications. This research has recognized the current reality of the fateful rallying of the Arab masses throughout the Arab world around the historic, principled position on the Mother of Battles—a position which will remain effective in the pan-Arab struggle until the goals of Arab awakening are wholly achieved.

This research deals with formulas for merger and union within the unified state, analyzes unionist experiments and projects, and stresses that the party has not adopted a final rigid stand on unionist formulas.

The conflict with the challenges of the current fragmentation and unity is moving things toward centralization, especially in terms of conceptions and actual application. Similarly, taking into account the party's view on the Arab countries' peculiarities and the democratic implication of unity is moving things toward decentralization and pluralism in practical formulas. Therefore, any imbalance or balance between the two equations within a unionist or merger formula would be based on the circumstances of unionist action, the phases and requirements of struggle, and the trends of Arab public opinion, both on the popular and official levels.

This research also sheds light on the most important reasons for the failure of practical unionist experiments pertaining to the situation of each individual state, referring to the factors of strength and weakness in each and how a state's individualism and authority are given advantage at the expense of its nationalism and pan-Arabism, and how it has failed to achieve desired economic and social success, as well as viewing the area of interaction between revenue and security considerations.

The research also emphasizes that the new challenges following the Mother of Battles require new formulas for defining a starting point for the masses' sacred advance toward restoring balance in the Arab homeland and to achieve the goals of the pan-Arab struggle.

B. Freedom and Democracy:

This part of the research deals with the political, social, cultural, and humanitarian dimensions of the concept of freedom in the Ba'th Party. It then continues to deal with the march of the party and its stands on the issue of implementing democracy before and after its assumption of power, proceeding from the principles of the first party constitution of 1947, and then, after the assumption of power in Syria and Iraq in 1963. This part of the research also deals with the coalition experiments, work within the front, the formula of the leader party, and the assessment situation reiterated by the democratic march in the party experiment since the first writings of leader

comrade Saddam Husayn in the early 1970's, particularly during the two important meetings of the Iraq Command of the Ba'th Party at the end of 1988 and the beginning of 1989. These two important meetings underlined the basic principles which were behind the National Assembly law, the elections held in 1980, and the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region. This democratic practice was adhered to during the war in the second National Assembly elections in 1984, the third elections in 1989, and those for the Legislative Council of the Autonomous Region in 1983, 1986, and 1989.

The most important principle is to keep away from formalities and to adhere to the principles of competition and pluralism in terms of opinions, continuous dialogue, associating the masses in public affairs, disclosing facts to the masses, and underscoring freedom of thought and the sovereignty of law.

In light of these principles, the practical measures of the party experiment in Iraq constituted an important beginning toward building a sound democratic order within the party by resorting to elections instead of appointments on all levels when choosing party leaders. The powers of the National Assembly were expanded; the principle of free affiliation with unions and popular organizations, to which affiliation was compulsory in accordance with the law, was endorsed; and free elections were held in popular organizations, just as took place in 1988. The drafts of the new constitution and press law were prepared and the principle of expanding political pluralism was announced. All this aimed at moving toward another stage of development in building an experiment, particularly after the level reached by the development stage in the march of revolution and party life in the wake of the Mother of Battles and after the expansion of democracy, has become, as Comrade Saddam Husayn said—in addition to adopting pluralism, respecting law, defining the party's relationship with state organs, and choosing leaders on the level of internal party life under all circumstances through elections—one of the most important tasks of the new stage.

The phrase which sums up this position is genuine peculiarity, that is to say, the peculiarity derived from the depth of heritage and history, and which is interacting with the necessities of the age and the ambitions of our great nation to have a better future that suits it. Democracy, the characteristics of which have been defined in light of the party's experiment, is a new system characterized by this peculiarity that demonstrates its genuine uniqueness. It is not a system that imitates what there was in the socialist countries. It is not an imitation of systems in the West. What distinguishes this system from the West's, in addition to its different ideological basis, is, first of all, its determination to take all measures to limit the influence of money in elections. Secondly, its adherence to the necessary national terms and the standard that political action must meet, which is the standard of the principles that constitute an ideological basis for the march of our revolutionary experiment. Thirdly, its taking into consideration the fact that the democratic process must be gradual and match the development of society in terms of education, experience, and maturity of awareness gained through elections, democratic liberties, collective work within mass organizations, replacing denounced tribalism with national links, and weakening the ability of the foreigner to interfere. In addition to this, the necessity of harmony between the process of democracy and economic development should be taken into consideration, as well as the high standard of living of the masses, the degree of progress in realizing justice in income and wealth distribution, and how far the low-income sectors have been liberated from the bonds of need, as well as liberation from poverty, ignorance, and disease. All these points have an effective impact on the success of these democratic measures.

This part of the research concludes by stressing that our party's practice of its pan-Arab responsibilities in this stage of jihad following the 30-state aggression, and in the atmosphere of democracy and its new path, necessitate that this stage have new characteristics. Among these characteristics must be a broadening and deepening of the field of democratic action while accurately adhering to equilibrium and security at a time when the West wants the Third World to copy its experiment in democracy—in which political democracy is not in harmony with the economic, social, and cultural dimensions of social development—so that this practice becomes a tool in the service of Western designs to impose hegemony and cultural and media dependence, in addition to economic dependence to end the role of national will. Therefore, the necessary democratic practice for this new stage calls for action within internal party life on the level of defining the party's relationship with state organs, on the level of respecting the law, and on the level of expanding democracy and adopting pluralism. Emphasis should be put on ensuring that the majority of people—with their ideas and hot blood—be present and effective so that through their constructive criticism and outside and direct dealing, they will renew our society and increase its vividness through active participation in social and political life in a manner that provides Ba'th principles with the chance to interact soundly and assume a leading role through these principles, as President Saddam Husayn said in his speech at the 10th Regional Congress.

C. Socialism, the Economic and Social Issue:

This last part of the first section of the political report states a methodical fact to which the party has obligated itself, and that is an abiding interaction between its theoretical concepts and the active movement of the Arab nation. This methodical approach applies to all angles of the party's dogma, including the issue of socialism. This necessarily entails the building of an economic and social system harmonious with the peculiarities of Arab society. The party adheres to general and unchanging principles in building an economic and social system, namely social justice, the prevention of exploitation, and the attainment of a decent standard of

living for all, the state taking responsibility for the development process, and the provision of basic services necessary for a social balance and economic welfare responding to the national and pan-Arab principles of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The applied side is based on taking account of gradualness and viewing the process of construction as an ongoing and open exercise, as well as viewing the horizons for advancement as an unbounded vista.

This side of the research underscores the fact that Ba'thist socialism is not a branch of totalitarian theory, as is the case in Marxism, but rather it springs from pan-Arabism. The idea is to wage a struggle to build a united Arab society where justice prevails and opportunities are equally accessible to all members of the community to realize their creative possibilities and their potential for material and spiritual well-being.

Our party has adhered to its national perspective of socialism while emphasizing that Arab socialism and the Arab route to socialism are synonymous. Under the leadership of comrade leader Saddam Husayn, socialism has set for itself the objective of attaining economic and bureaucratic reform, at once principled and realistic, and not drawing on ready-made prescriptions but on a clearly defined program. Methods will be chosen, adjusted, and even replaced wherever necessary. New methods will be devised so as to suit realities on the ground without detriment to principles.

Realistic principles mean those that relate to realities on the ground, while at the same time taking the long view and leading the process of advancement in a principled yet flexible manner. That is the method charted by comrade leader Saddam Husayn.

In light of this approach, the steps of socialist transformation in the party experiment were calculated in accordance with an accurate balance, relying on flexibility in confronting emergency cases and circumstances of the march with the aim of strengthening and promoting the socialist approach, with regard to maintaining a balance between the concept of justice and the concept of economic efficiency, as well as between the socialist and other sectors, particularly the private sector. The constant aim of the party's socialist experiment was to wipe out exploitation, ensure prosperity for the people, and provide society and individuals with happiness and freedom, safeguarding the components of a faithful personality which is capable of free opinion and decisionmaking without unwanted influences. Every formula should adapt to its phase and circumstances, and therefore is subject to development, adaptation, and change.

Another constant aim was production efficiency and competition, considering it a pillar of our economic approach. The developments in the Ba'thist experiment in Iraq was an expression of a realistic and scientific socialist approach, a sign of an advanced and live concept of economic transformation issues, an affirmation of constant principles, and a change of means and formulas based on respect for principles and providing factors for success in application. This is proof of our party's originality and its dynamic interaction with reality and the transformation phases, and an embodiment of its deep faith in socialism irrespective of any criticism leveled at it in certain areas concerning details and minor points.

The reconstruction operation and economic rebuilding after the 30-state aggression in the Mother of Battles is being carried out with the same approach and with high efficiency, being a paragon for others. The high quality of production and social justice are basic pillars of the Ba'thist concept of socialist economic order.

The laws of labor, social welfare, pension, and social care were enacted on this basis, ensuring a definite income for the various cases of disability, including the mentally disabled who have no one to care for them, in addition to the widows and orphans who have no income and who do not receive any assistance from their families.

In light of the principled and realistic Ba'thist approach, the socialist sector withdrew partially or completely from nonstrategic branches of the economy, and assumed wider presence with larger investments in more important sectors in the national economy in order to rectify the economic line and place the wagon on the right path.

The discussion of socialism then goes on to consider the socialist Arab concept of property and how this concept bypassed the two well-known paradoxes in the global experiments; namely, nationalizing the land on the one hand and absolute private property on the other. The property rights as enunciated in the party's constitution are natural and connected with the pan-Arab interest. They are ensured within the pan-Arab interest. The concept of property has been crystallized as a social function with the same descriptions pertaining to private property, in terms of benefits, utility, disposition, inheritance, and selling. However, this must be within the confines of the public interest. When personal property contravenes the public interest, the state can come up with a law and intervene to rectify the situation.

Our party can rightly take pride in its practical, democratic option that has proven itself and excelled past other methods that have drawn on ready-made theories that bear no relation to Arab realities, or are incomplete. On the economic front—both in theory and practice—our party was alone in fighting against hostile currents, both left wing and right wing. We are encouraged and our self-confidence is enhanced by the fact that the Iraqi branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party began the economic and bureaucratic reform before the crisis in the Soviet Union and its socialist model came to a head. This is because our party's anticipation of global developments has worked in its favor, whereas the tardiness of the Soviet Union in rectifying the economic imbalance led to their being left behind—a factor that contributed to its precipitous collapse.

The second section of the political report comprised four chapters:

Chapter 1: The Major Issues in the Arab Arena.

This chapter addressed:

A. Al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles.

B. The Palestinian issue.

A. The discussion of al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles was undertaken in the historical and militant context of the Arab nation and its reawakening. The second al-Qadisiyah—Saddam's al-Qadisiyah—recalls its namesake, the first al-Qadisiyah of al-Muthanna and Sa'd, and cannot be isolated in our historical memory from Dhi Qar, which preceded it. The Mother of Battles, meanwhile, recalls the first epics of the Arab message, since it takes its inspiration from the spirit of Arabism and Islam. Therefore, the two wars that the Arab nation had to fight toward the end of the 20th century in Iraq, whose soil has been watered with the blood of virtuous martyrs, was, effectively, one war in two chapters that can only be comprehended in light of the throes of the rebirth of a nation.

Both the al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles were a response to the premeditated aggression by the enemies who aimed, through their aggression, to fragment Iraq and strike at its national unity and its pan-Arab role as a vanguard of the rising nation. For Iraq and the nation, they were a necessary option. Therefore, raising doubts through the traditional political question of whether or not the war was inevitable separates the two great events from their objective framework, that is, from the conflict which is imposed by plans hostile to the escalating Arab awakening. These plans have branded the awakening an escalating, fateful conflict between the Arabs and the West. The objective development of the Arab awakening over a century and a half was exposed to successive forms of colonialist, Zionist, imperialist, and anti-Arab aggression. The Arab nation has been in a state of defense since the beginning of its awakening. Meanwhile, the Western colonialist forces, which have ambitions in the Arab nation's region and desire its wealth, and which have planted the usurper Zionist entity, have been working for over a century to conquer the Arab people, disrupt their homeland and countries, and spread sedition among their factions. These forces also fought beside Iran to defeat Iraq because it managed to turn the nation's defensive position into a positive and effective one expressing rejection of surrender to aggression, regardless of its size and source.

The confrontation, therefore, is a historical and cultural one in terms of its colonialist nature and cultural example, the enemy is moving toward deterioration and contradiction, and is unable to refrain from aggression because it considers its colonialist interests a destiny governing it and its view of the world. We, the Arabs, cannot surrender to the tyrannical force because the law of awakening and resurrection expresses a counter reality, that is, inevitable struggle in the face of inevitable aggression. Repeated confrontations, uprisings, revolutions, and convoys of martyrs have affirmed over a century and a half that the Arabs are unable to abandon their beloved destiny. Al-Qadisiyah and the Mother of Battles provided an historic chance for expressing that reality.

The second al-Qadisiyah was a comprehensive intellectual, political, military, and cultural victory, which drew up a new beginning in the Arabs' life and opened up spheres for new a stage. Iraq's victory sowed new seeds of confidence in ourselves, in the future, and in our historic leadership.

The victory of al-Qadisiyah was an intellectual victory for Arabism and Islam, a spiritual victory that revived the spirit of the message, and a cultural victory for the idea of genuineness and progress, not to mention a political and military victory. The forces of Western colonialism realized the meanings of that complete victory, which proved to be a reality that the imperialist and Zionist forces have long ignored; namely, the state of awakening in the nation. Therefore, this glorious Arab victory has stimulated all of the West's grudges against Iraq as a vanguard for a comprehensive Arab awakening and also against Iraq's historic role being played by a national hero, who has been able to raise the nation and the Arab struggle to the level of jihad, in the full sense of the militant, spiritual, and cultural meanings of the word. The principled, historic jihad, epitomized by the Mother of Battles against the 30-state aggression, strongly expresses our right to defend ourselves against aggression which is planning for evil.

Therefore, soon the falsity of the Western attempt to cover its aggressiveness with "international legitimacy" was exposed because the aggressors have gone beyond all limits, including the laws of war, in their barbaric aggression and siege against Iraq only because Iraq represents the spirit and essence of the nation, and because comrade leader Saddam Husayn has matured the factors of a new pan-Arab cultural revival. Therefore, the real target of the 30-state aggression is this new spirit in Iraq. The result of the duel was a great victory for the nation and Iraq through the steadfastness of the experiment which was victorious thanks to its model new structure, its steadfastness, the unleashing of the spirit of jihad within the sons of the nation, and the reconstruction of what the evil ones destroyed.

The Mother of Battles was not a war but it was "a unique duel." The spirit of its jihad and great message has stormed the doors of the future at the national, pan-Arab, and international levels.

Hence, the Mother of Battles assumes its position on the march of contemporary Arab struggle as the most prominent positive turning point in the life of the nation, because it was the nation's decisive answer in the face of enemies of its progress, and a declaration by it that it chose the road of progress and that it is ready to confront

the West's aggressive policy that led to this historic duel through its defense of the Zionist entity and through its designs to protect corruption after it created its seeds and motives, and in order to divide the Arab nation and prevent it from directing its oil wealth toward the realization of comprehensive Arab development and rescuing Arab society from backwardness, dependence, and fragmentation.

B. The second part of the first chapter in the political report deals with the major fateful pan-Arab issue, Palestine. It emanates from the link between al-Qadisiyah, the Mother of Battles, and the Palestinian intifadah because they are all considered an introduction to a new pan-Arab stage since they have come as a demonstration of a hidden energy within the nation that is directed toward the future. The stones' revolution was a new birth for the militant, steadfast spirit and the liberating will of Palestine's mujahid people.

The link between these two positive phenomena in Iraq and Palestine, which aim at elevating the struggle and national and pan-Arab action to an historic level after a long stage of interruption and decline, is a link between the spirit of the one nation and the arenas that are more exposed to aggression.

In the case of the Palestine question and in all stages and circumstances, the nature of struggle with the Zionist enemy and the fact that it is a fateful and cultural struggle should be taken into consideration. This struggle necessitates adherence to the principled policy that represents the nation's readiness to confront designs aimed at liquidating the Palestine question and the Palestinian people. The fateful and cultural struggle is a continuous and long struggle, and the conspiracy aims at sabotaging any Arab strength because what is needed is that the Arabs surrender to a fait accompli in which their fate is separated from their will. Since 1948, the conspiracy against the Palestine question viewed the Arab stand on this issue as a sign of Arab impotence. The positive, decisive, and historic answer has come. The intifadah arose so as to continue, in the Palestinian arena, the revolutionary Ba'th experiment in Iraq at the level of confrontation with the Iranian aggression and then with the alliance that assembled imperialist, Zionist, anti-Arab, and Iranian forces in the 30-state aggression. Therefore, the intifadah—the same as Iraq's victorious confrontation—was a demonstration of the new historical stage of pan-Arab struggle.

Against the background of this stage, the strategy of pan-Arab action for the sake of Palestine will be determined by two key criteria: The readiness of the people of Palestine to struggle until liberation, and the continuous readiness of the Arab nation to make the Palestine question its central cause in its struggle on the path of awakening and unity.

This general framework for our party's pan-Arab strategy was consolidated in the manner set out by the comrade leader, founder of the party, Michel 'Aflaq, may his soul rest in peace, and by the principled position enunciated by comrade leader Saddam Husayn in his historic initiative of 12 August 1990 that laid bare the double standard of world politics. That was also a test of all positions that were implicated in liquidating the Palestinian case. These principles, which express a constant line of our party, fall under the heading of the all-embracing perspective of the Arab case—the cause of unity, total liberation, and pan-Arab renaissance. This is since the open-ended struggle of the young generation of the revolutionaries of the stone and the mujahidin of the Mother of Battles is unbounded by any ceiling other than the limit of total national liberation and the unionist struggle to attain militant formulas connecting the new forward looking phenomena with a united militant and popular strategy in the Arab world backed by popular forces in the Islamic world to liberate Jerusalem and Palestine. The Middle East peace conference is only a U.S.-Zionist project used as cover to liquidate the Palestinian case and bury the intifadah.

Therefore, it is the organic alliance between the Palestinian intifadah and the struggle of Arabs across the Arab homeland that ensures movement forward in the direction of the primary aim, and that is the liberation of Palestine. Through the militant principles of the Mother of Battles the Arabs recouped their liveliness that drew its inspiration from the masses. These principles have also regained the vitality that represents the spirit of genuine struggle and looks forward to the realization of liberation and unity with a greater faith.

A strategic outlook on things necessarily leads to learning the lessons of developments on the global scene and to grasping the new equation of international relations and their repercussions on the Arab cause, in general, and for the Palestinian question in particular. The liberation of Arab nationalism from being polarized toward this or that world power has been a positive factor in the upheaval that has rocked the world.

The Arab world has become a more vital center for the United States, the European Community, Japan, China, Russia, and even the Zionist entity. Not one of these is any longer capable of ignoring the determined militant stand brought to light by the Mother of Battles that has put the Palestinian cause back on the center stage of the Arab struggle against imperialism and Zionism. Therefore, the Arab-Zionist conflict will undoubtedly be affected by these new circumstances and therefore calls for a higher degree of struggle on the part of Arabs and the Palestinians.

Chapter 2:

A. The Politico-Religious Phenomeon.

B. The Gulf Phenomenon.

A. The political report highlights one of the most prominent traits of the Ba'thist ideology; its profound approach to religion as an eternal and basic fact in the faith and life of mankind, in the revolutionary, cultural,

and humanitarian role of Islam in the life of the Arabs and the Muslims, and in the fateful organic unity between Arabism and Islam, not to mention the emphasis it places on the spiritual dimensions of Arab nationalism.

The report also outlines the difference between the religious phenomenon and the poltico-religious phenomenon and distinguishes between what is fabricated when dealing with religion, specifically the exploitation of religion for earthly purposes. The distinction between the religious phenomenon and the politico-religious phenomenon blocks the road to the latter's exploitation of the natural and positive religious inclination of the Arab masses to peddle a reactionary program that is hostile to these masses, a program based on maintaining the status quo of backwardness, fragmentation, and subservience and on fighting the Arab liberation movement and hampering its march.

Based on this premise, the past four decades have witnessed a diversified and broad struggle between the political-religious movements and the Arab liberation movement in most Arab countries. The development and the expansion of the trade and economic activities of these movements, their linkage with the Saudi and Gulf financial quarters which are associated with the monopolistic world capital, and their explicit adoption of the policy of economic openness, the subservient capitalist development pattern, and the dictatorial policies that are opposed to democracy, have exposed to the Arab masses the falsehood of the slogans they raise under religious cover.

The Khomeyniite wave played the same role but in a more dangerous manner when it exploited religious slogans to commit aggression against a rising and liberated Iraq, which embodies the spirit of Arabism and Islam.

The politico-religious phenomenon exploited the circumstances of the successive setbacks since the split [which split is not elaborated], the June 1967 defeat, the Camp David conspiracy, the economic and social crises, and the spread of corruption in most of the Arab regimes, and dissociated itself from the peoples interests to develop, spread, and benefit from the negative circumstances. This development had nothing to do with the genuine meanings in the national, cultural, and social life. On the contrary, encouraged by the imperialist circles, this phenomenon confronted the Arab liberation movement. The Iranian experience was the most explicit example of what this politico-religious phenomenon could produce.

In spite of the crushed hope that was pinned on the Iranian example, its failure, and the triumph of the civilized national example that is based on the genuine, vivid, and creative faith in Islam, which was embodied by Iraq, the politico-religious phenomenon still justifies its existence and development through major factors such as the national vacuum, the spread of material and moral corruption , the manifestations of repression, and the economic crises within each country. Other factors which encourage such a phenomenon consist of the weak national awareness in some Arab countries, the alliances they hold with parties outside the Arab homeland, and the inability to dissociate religion and faith from poltical slogans which are raised under the cover of religion.

In light of this framework, we can view the position of the political movements that wore the robe of religion during the great confrontation in the Mother of Battles. These movements were divided. The ones linked with the ruling regimes in Saudi Arabia and the Gulf emirates sided with the U.S.-Atlantic-Zionist aggression forces against Iraq and against higher Arab and Islamic interests. The movements connected with the Iranian regime took an opportunistic stance, under the pretext of being impartial during the first phase of the aggression. Thus, they weaseled out of their commitment to fight global forces of arrogance. However, their conspiratorial role was uncovered when they carried out the second chapter of the aggression against Iraq during the chapter of treachery and treason, in full agreement and coordination with the U.S.-Zionist forces of aggression.

As for other Islamic movements, they adopted a positive stance in support of Iraq and against the forces of aggression, alongside nationalist, pan-Arab, and democratic forces. This had a wide-ranging positive effect on supporting Iraq on the political and media levels and with regard to the popular and official Arab and Islamic position in general. Although the stands of these movements varied in terms of their efficacy and influence, their overall position reflected a serious attitude stemming from a deep understanding of the grave dangers threatening the Arab nation and the nations of the Islamic world, as well as an awareness of the fact that the aggression does not target Iraq alone, but that it fundamentally targets Arabism and Islam. The important fact remains that this stance represents a new development in the attitude of these movements, which we are keen on promoting so as to support faith and genuine revolutionary action.

This development represents one of the most important positive aspects of the great showdown in the Mother of Battles and its deep impact on the course of the Arab liberation movement in the next stage. The circumstances and complications of the Arab situation mandate that we open the door of dialogue and meet with all pan-Arab, national, religious, and Marxist political currents and movements in the Arab homeland in accordance with specific, clear bases. It is also imperative that we should study Islamic movements in various countries to understand the circumstances of their creation and development, and the forces supporting them. We should also know how to deal with these movements in accordance with a strategy that gives prominence to the jihad meaning of the Mother of Battles and the jihad missions in the stage that should unite all national and

pan-Arab forces of various intellectual trends on a unified strategic position to confront the enemies of Arabism and Islam. We should affirm that the call that obliterates the unique national and pan-Arab character in the name of religion is a misleading call aimed at making non-Arabs dominate Arabs to rob them of their religious and humanitarian role and destroy their leading character in the Islamic world, which does not conflict with the Arab nation.

B. The political report proceeds from the geopolitical and geoeconomic importance of the location of the Arabian Gulf, which is an important Arab window to the world, whose significance as a trade route has gained prominence since the recent stages of the history of the Arabian Peninsula. The circumstances of the Arabian Peninsula, as well as colonialist schemes and interests centered on it, have subjected it to a kind of alienation that turned, as a result of linkage with foreign interests, into a relative separation from the body of the nation. For, these schemes have wreaked havoc with the Arabian Peninsula and weakened its Arabism, until it was transformed into an aberrant phenomenon in the life of the nation, plundering and monopolizing its wealth and then turning this wealth into a debilitating, subversive agent and a springboard of aggression against the awakening of the nation. This happened after these schemes had made the most of the Gulf rulers tools without an identity, through which colonialist-Zionist forces play very dangerous roles against the fate of the nation and the issues pertaining to its liberation, independence, progress and unity.

It is the fate of the Arabian Gulf region to have another neighbor represented in the Iranian threat and its regional ambitions and schemes and plots against the Arabism of the Gulf. The Iranian neighbor has confirmed its constant ambitions, and its Gulf scheme was part of a larger conspiratorial mission focused on the Arab homeland in general, and Iraq in particular.

The Iranian threat coexisted with imperialist and Zionist schemes. Thus, they both formed two jaws of a pincer gripping hard the Arab liberation movement whenever a unionist Arab movement was created to polarize the feelings of Arabs in the Gulf area and make them feel that they are part of the sons of their nation, as happened during the Nasirist movement in the 1950's and the Palestinian revolutionary expansion in the aftermath of the June defeat in the 1960's, and finally when Iraq rose under the Ba'th leadership and Saddam Husayn became the leader of the Arab movement following two victories in two historic duels with the colonialist- Zionist danger and the Iranian anti-Arabist danger.

Since the political and economic role of oil began to gain importance in the mid-1970's and the huge oil revenues started to pile up in the Gulf region—which made the ruling cliques very wealthy and linked the Gulf regimes, politically, financially, and in terms of security, with the colonialist-Zionist Western schemes—the Gulf phenomenon has started to move toward a formula of a regional system gradually isolated from the Arab political, economic and security regime. U.S.-Atlantic schemes encouraged and sponsored this trend. Later, the Gulf region turned into a center of plotting against the Arab nation and its movement of liberation and unity and against the objective of fair distribution of pan-Arab wealth in accordance with comprehensive, integral development plans in the Arab homeland.

This was made clear during the major confrontation in the Mother of Battles. The issue of Kuwait came within the framework of the confrontation from a defensive position against premeditated aggression and an overall conspiracy, the dimensions of which were revealed through the 30-state aggression against Iraq. Capitulation to the onslaught meant the destruction of all pillars of the Arab liberation movement.

Thus, the Gulf phenomenon, in addition to its being a "subservient" phenomenon mortgaging national destinies and pan-Arab wealth to the foreigner, has become a conspiratorial phenomenon against the national and pan-Arab destiny by siding with the enemies of the nation and the enemies of its renaissance and masses. It has also turned into a corruption phenomenon meaning submersion in material and moral corruption, relinquishment of the spiritual values, disdain for the nation's sanctities, and impairment of other parts of the nation. Looting the nation's wealth, encouraging capitulatory trends in the face of external challenges, and both wasting and employing oil revenues in the service of capitalist monopolies resulted in a dangerous Gulf phenomenon which did not stop within its regional framework but turned into a cancer in the nation's body spreading infection to many corners of the Arab homeland in order to spoil consciences and distort the national and pan-Arab character. Therefore, the strategy of pan-Arab struggle should be drawn up in the light of this new contradiction which underscores the meaning of jihad in the coming stage.

The Gulf phenomenon is a modern laoratory for the colonialist states and U.S. imperialism aimed at creating artificial situations and class states consisting of tribal and familial groupings that rule according to a colonialist will and that are used as a cover for a conspiratorial scheme. This scheme is expanding and posing greater dangers to the nation's destiny, struggling issues, and contemporary renaissance.

This modern laboratory, for which the colonialist and imperialist forces have mobilized all their old and new expertise, cannot be understood in isolation of the old laboratory which paved the way for the Gulf phenomenon. This old laboratory is the Saudi pheomenon which researchers note is linked in the memory of the colonialist West with the scheme dividing the Arab homeland and obstructing its awakening. Circumstances alone did not lead to the emergence of the Zionist scheme and the Saudi scheme on the rubble of the Ottoman Empire because both the Zionist and Saudi phenomena were based on serving the western colonialist scheme and

were the arch enemy of pan-Arabism. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia came about in accordance with a certain plan and served certain fixed aims. Its firm policy was opposing any step toward Arab unity whether by foiling the unity of Syria and Iraq in the early fifties or by antagonizing the unity of Egypt and Syria in 1958. It continued to play a dangerous role in every Arab arena by sowing dissension among the national and pan- Arab forces and the Palestinian ranks. It played an exposed role in supporting and bringing about the secession, in the tragedy of Lebanon, in supporting Hafiz al-Asad's regime, in taming the Egyptian regime after Jamal 'Abd-al-Nasir's era, in supporting the world reactionary forces, and in covering the imperialist schemes with a false Islamic facade. This continued until the old laboratory was linked with the new one. The role of these laboratories was fully revealed through its involvement in the U.S.- led Atlantic-Zionist-imperialist aggression against Iraq and the future of the Arab nation.

Chapter 3: The New Changes in Today's World and Their Impact on the Pan-Arab and International State of Affairs.

A. The New Changes.

B. International Relations and Their Impact on the Pan-Arab State of Affairs.

A. The political report noted the phenomenon of the speedy collapse of the Soviet Union and how this collapse has impaired the balance of power in the world and has harmed the Third World countries, specifically in the Arab homeland. These changes have revealed the existence of an innate crisis in the prototypes in today's world in general and the capitalist prototypes in particular, the weak points in the political, social, and cultural structure of these prototypes which ruled in the name of socialism and wagered on the speedy disappearance of the capitalist regimes. The political report then speaks about the capitalist regimes' attempts to exploit the results of the speedy collapse of the Soviet Union to cover up the faults of the capitalist system and to claim that this system embodies the logic of history and the age without these capitalist regimes realizing that by ignoring their crises they too would be exposed to the same collapse that the Soviet Union experienced.

In Third World countries, particularly in the Arab countries, the main preoccupation of the national and pan-Arab struggle movement is how to assimilate the intellectual, political, and social dimensions of the current changes in the world. While these dimensions have become exposed in and outside the socialist prototypes, the cultural dimension still remains a topic to which researchers have not paid much attention. The complete and indepth awareness of the essence of the crisis in the prototypes of today's world requires first of all liberating oneself from western civilization which continued to impose its influence on mankind and the world for many centuries. This liberation can take place only within the framework of the existence of a new and genuine civilization and through a genuine understanding of the changes in today's world. Thus, the West continues to ignore the essence of its crisis, and it is only natural that criticism takes place within the societies that have suffered from the West's imperialist and racist policies and from their many militant experiments which brought about much suffering, especially when such sufferings rise to the level of militant struggle such as the Palestinian struggle and the fateful confrontation, represented in the Mother of Battles.

A civilization-based analysis would reveal the reality of the crisis and the essence of the defect in the structure of socialist and capitalist experiments together. For, in their attempts to produce individuals and communities in accordance with a materialistic view that focuses on materialistic and economic and social values and factors at the expense of balance with spiritual, moral, cultural, and psychological values and factors, capitalism and socialism have been involved in a double process of distortion of socialism and freedom, thus rendering the formulas of the civilized, human existence of the individual and the community defective. This consequently made the relationship between theory and practice defective. It also made the relationship between technological progress on the one hand and the human conception of progress and social and cultural progress on the other defective.

This is because the criteria of success and the values of profit and exploitation in its new forms have now taken control. Also, the criterion of financial gain has dominated principled and ethical standards. Thus, the concept of humanity has disappeared, and made the civilized, humanitarian meaning of the existence of a human community disappear as well. This reflected on the climate of international relations, making relations based on friendship shrink and relations based on narrow, immediate interests thrive.

This happened in both the socialist and capitalist experiments. The crisis, therefore, is a crisis of civilization for the Western model. This is why the changes in the beginning of the last decade of the 20th century advocate the need for a new model of civilization. This need became clear to the entire world in the aftermath of the 30-state aggression, which mobilized the regimes representing the West and the regimes representing the remnants of decline in their societies face Iraq, whose principled, historic stance embodied a nucleus for a plan of civilized awakening that invokes the Arab message and the aspirations of mankind, which is struggling to attain a more humanitarian and more civilized and balanced future.

B. The political report examined the major turning point in international relations, created by the economic, social and political domestic affairs in the U.S. and Soviet societies. This turning point is spreading the crisis all over the world under a new U.S. cover which they named "new world order".

The West, in its communist and capitalist branches, has pursued a policy that depends on the logic of material force. Despite the fact that the two worlds have received with satisfaction the call for a dialogue and for overcoming the logic of ideological and political conflict which had had an impact on the entire world, the tragic end of the Soviet Union has buttressed the logic of force on the part of the United States and made it activate this logic aggressively after it had secured unilateral domination over the world.

A fundamental reflection of this change in international relations was represented in the U.S.-led 30-state aggression under the cover of the United Nations to punish the independent will of rising Iraq.

Thus, the development in international relations unmasked the Western crisis of civilization, which reflected on Third World nations and the Arab homeland in particular. The world was surprised by the quick results of the unilateral U.S. domination. Instead of moving toward ideological pluralism, dialogue, and social and cultural coexistence among different regimes, the world took the opposite road; and instead of leaving the circle of divisions, stereotypes, and the logic of pure force and the circle of conflicts and moving to establish new relations between North and South and create a new vision of the world which respects the values of the age—the value of freedom and human rights—certain nations have been in the grip of U.S. capitalism for some time.

The development in international politics toward achieving capitalist hegemony and the development in international relations toward reinforcing unipolarity raise a question on the future of the Nonaligned Movement and the real role of the United Nations as well as on the right path to build international relations that respond to the interests of people and express the spirit of the age.

The nature of capitalism cannot change substantially because it will continue to expand outside its limits and will continue to escape from its internal crises. Eventually, it will face reactions and blocks within the capitalist regimes whether from the center or from its periphery. This policy will yield inevitable results that are represented by the collapse of the imposed formula, the new world order.

The right path to build international relations that express the interests of the people and which are adaptable to the changes of the age is the path of the principled policy which is based on mutual respect for national identity, nationalism, values, humanitarian objectives, and mutual interests. This is the path to which the Ba'th Party has adhered and for which it shed much blood and suffering because it is the path that represents freedom, independence, and respect for the principle of integration between the national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian dimensions. This path also represents real faith in human rights and historical determination to promote politics to the level that pushes international relations toward humanitarian and cultural aims.

Through this policy, the Ba'th Party defended its faith in its national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian principles. The Mother of Battles came as an epic to defend the national, pan-Arab, and humanitarian objectives while defending Iraq, the fate of its people and nation, and the fate of human civilization.

Chapter 4: The Theory of Pan-Arab Action and the Current Pan-Arab Stage.

The political report deals in this chapter with:

1. The Stages of the Theory of Pan-Arab Action:

The political report dwells on the following three stages:

A. The stage that precedes the party's assumption of power in one of the states of the nation and how the pan-Arab action in this stage was an expression of the doctrine of the Ba'th. The revolutionary romance prevailed in this stage. The principled view of the political life, pan-Arab action, and adherence to the unifying pan-Arab course distinguished the Ba'th Party.

B. The stage of assumption of power in 1963. It was an experimental state. Therefore, the theory of pan-Arab action did not develop in order to enhance the concepts of the relationship between pan-Arabism and the peculiarities of states, between the party and authority, between the authority and popular action, between states on the popular and official levels, or the relationship between theory and application.

This stage ended with two retreats for the two experiments in both Iraq and Syria, in November 1963 and in February 1966, respectively. In these two experiments, the theory of pan-Arab action was exposed to a serious test.

C. The stage of mature revolutionary experience:

The nation and the party have both achieved a maturity that expressed itself in a new level of leadership, which grew and perfected itself through confrontation, suffering, epics, and triumphs, and by learning and passing on lessons of past experiences. Thus, the historic role played by comrade leader Saddam Husayn and the development of the pan-Arab action theory developed through the splendid exercise of that role. That maturity was also exemplified in the marvelous integration of the historic personality of founder leader Michel 'Aflaq, whom we lost and whose absence was felt in the 12th pan-Arab Congress, and the personality of comrade leader Saddam Husayn, may God preserve him. This unique integration, and the rich lessons of the eight-year war experience and then the experience of the Mother of Battles, with all its marvels, provided ideal conditions to strengthen the integration of theoretical and strategic thought on the one hand and the actual practices on the level of leadership on the other. Thanks to the fact that all of these conditions came into being, the theory of

pan-Arab action achieved a qualitative improvement, which was seen particularly in defining the nature of the pan-Arab phase and its basic needs and in working on the basis of that strategic concept to bring about a new militant [jihadiyah] state of Arab awakening, which takes inspiration from the spirit of steadfastness and victory achieved by the Ba'th experience in Iraq.

Maintaining the intricate balance between theoretical thought and the practical; considering the organic link between the pan-Arab view and the specific peculiarities of each state, as well as the stages of pan-Arab action and the need to provide the necessary factors to help it grow and achieve its tasks on both the national and pan-Arab levels; developing the formulas of future action that realizes integration and unity within the strategy of pan-Arab struggle; endeavoring to create a suitable atmosphere for serious meeting and democratic dialogue between pan-Arab forces; and improving the formulas for revolutionary action and freeing them from the spirit of negative opposition, which is impractical and lacks scientific logic—all these developments in the theory of pan- Arab action have started to move toward achieving a historic level, open to the future.

2. The Current Pan-Arab Phase:

A thorough study of the events of the major duel in the Mother of Battles and the pan-Arab phase resulting from it, and picking up the message of jihad which the Mother of Battles conveyed to the nation are among the most important things that should be introduced within the consciousness of future Arab generations and be entrenched to provide an additional factor to fulfill the militant tasks of that phase.

Reaching an Arab reading of the events of the current phase amid the U.S.-Zionist flood of false information cannot be achieved with a classical political mind. Such a deep reading requires a scientific approach, a revolutionary mind, and a feel of the message and the people's spirit, as well as a close interaction with the events. Therefore, our party is not only qualified to present such an initial reading, but is also required to present this reading that would help future Arab generations to discover the militant [jihadi] national and pan-Arab essence of the Mother of Battles as well as the militant [jihadiyah] nature of the current pan-Arab phase.

Our Arab nation is advancing toward its revivalist pan-Arab goals despite the fateful challenges facing it, the difficulties of the march, and the pain of experience. It is moving forward regardless of the difficulties on the road. Its destiny, in light of the current international and historic phase, places it before vanguard human missions, in addition to its national and pan- Arab ones. Iraq enjoys full conditions for a leading role. Therefore, this country bears a big burden in the face of current challenges. The Mother of Battles can be understood only within its historic, militant framework. It is an extension of the Great Arab Revolt and the revolutions of Palestine and the Arab Maghreb. It is also an obvious renewal of the revolutions of 'Abd-al-Nasir, Algeria, and Iraq; it is an honor for the Palestinian revolution; it is a victory for the spirit of unity between Syria and Egypt in 1958; it is a reminder of the Suez Canal crossing operation [during the October war]; it is a reinforcement of the spirit of the intifadah; it is part of the spirit of struggle in every Arab arena; it is a true response to Yemen's unity; it is, above all, a response to the first call from which the idea of the Ba'th Party, the era of heroism, emerged; and it is a true expression of the rise of the Ba'th Party.

Therefore, this defensive, principled position, expressed by the Mother of Battles, and the militant spirit which characterized it epitomizes the spirit of the nation's steadfastness and lit a glowing torch in the darkness of the Arab situation—a torch whose light has reached every place and whose faith touched the soul of the Arab masses and the young generations throughout the Arab homeland.

The Mother of Battles has branded the current pan-Arab stage with a militant spirit, which urges the sons of Arabism, the advocates of the message, to promote the unity of their struggle, strengthen national unity in every country, create a popular climate suitable for unity, eliminate the barriers of backwardness, and free the Arab mind, soil, and land of all sorts of subservience, domination, repression, controlling the nation's wealth, and tampering with its sanctities. It is an awakening of the mind and the conscience, it is an awakening of jihad and construction, and it is an awakening of Arabism and Islam, which is now opening up an advanced stage of pan- Arab struggle, after the duel has settled scores between a part of the nation, Iraq, and international and local enemies' forces, money, modern means, and army in favor of the Arab awakening.

The new pan-Arab stage proceeded from total clarity of view, from a precise classification, and from a complete exposure of the Arab and international situation in light of the awakening Arab reality. Therefore, it is a foundation for the pan-Arab struggle and the Arab masses, which responded to the call of the battle only within their circumstantial capabilities because of their helplessness, have stressed their readiness to express their desire for struggle to realize the nation's fateful goals. Even the regimes, which supported Iraq from the beginning of the great duel, expressed a new level of readiness to meet the requirements of the pan-Arab stage until the end, although the positions of every one of them did not rise to the level of popular expression against the international situation facing the current Arab stage and characterized by U.S., Zionist, and colonialist concentration to liquidate the causes of Arab struggle, foremost of which is the Palestine question.

This stage is pushing toward building a militant strategy of clear-cut missions for the Arab masses, their militant vanguards, and their young generations and also for the vanguards of the Islamic nations, for Third World countries, for the elements that have freed themselves of U.S.

and Zionist pressures, influences, and interests in European countries, for the existing socialist experiences in China, Cuba, and Vietnam, and for the new experiences which will emerge after the current stage.

Therefore, the achievement of the tasks of the new pan-Arab stage requires action based on the awareness of the need for the rise of a national, pan-Arab, and international bloc against imperialism, and to confront the common danger and the continuous threats by the regimes that joined the aggression against the Arab nation—the escalated threats to freedoms in the world, to the independent political decisionmaking which is based on the interests of homelands, and to the independent development efforts which is free of subservience—as well as the escalated threats to the security of states, the abuse of human rights, the damaging of the democratic process through turning political pluralism and its positive tasks into a means to fragment societies, and the infiltration of the trends and games of the imperialist policy into the national ranks. Moreover, the basic element of any strategy of any national or pan-Arab action, and of any serious struggle at this pan-Arab stage, are the masses. The Arab mases have expressed their readiness to shoulder the burdens of the new tasks of struggle. These masses are aware of the factors that obstructed the unity of struggle, and of the reasons behind the recession of the social and democratic practice of the Arab struggle movement.

Through their rallying around the brave and principled Iraqi position in the Mother of Battles, the Arab masses expressed the unity of the popular Arab struggle. The Ba'th Party has also expressed its sincerity to its leading vanguard role through the historic principled stand which it defended during the Mother of Battles.

The current pan-Arab stage requires a higher level of analyzing pan-Arab phenomena and of tackling them. It also requires new formulas to achieve integration between national and pan-Arab action and to develop popular awareness, culture, and communication. It also requires a clear-cut program of action to establish a popular pan-Arab front and a pan-Arab Islamic front to unify the struggle of the Arab people, to liberate the masses' resources, to defend democracy, and work diligently to reach a new level that is commensurate with the nature of jihad during the current pan-Arab stage, and to establish a popular humanitarian Islamic pan-Arab front to confront the imperialist threats, interference in other people's internal affairs, and the plundering of peoples' national gains.

Comrade Saddam Husayn concluded the meetings of the 12th Pan-Arab Congress in a speech in which he said:

Praise be to God. O comrades, your venerable congress has been able to confidently define the genuine course of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

The party began with one person; namely, the founder of the party, may God have mercy on him. And then the party became as it is now.

When we review the first image of the party, some interventions seemed, in accordance with the traditional criteria, stronger than the party. However, the party was able, through its faithful revolutionary spirit, to remove from its path all the images that mixed with the genuine course of the party so that the party remained as it is and maintained the image in which the Ba'thist strugglers throughout the great Arab homeland believed.

We will rely on Almighty God's help first and last. We will cooperate together and carry the burdens of others if that is in the interest of the party. We will help you and ask for your help. However, in all cases we cannot say that we can never achieve better than what has been achieved. The situation in which we attain high achievements entails another situation in which we attain highest achievements. A faithful man can achieve anything that is part of his right faith. This man can face difficulties and failure, but he should proceed because there is no success without difficulties.

Measuring the spirit of your party falls within the framework of the Mother of Battles of which your are proud. This is how the Ba'th Party is measured. The other things are just images on the road. Every situation is measured in its spirit, not in its details.

The steadfastness of a Ba'thists in his prison cell is one of the images of the Mother of Battles. The success of a Ba'thists, under difficult circumstances, in building a real and faithful Ba'thist cell is another image of the Mother of Battles. Communicating to the masses a statement that expresses the will of the Ba'th, which is derived from the social, psychological, political, and economic meanings practiced by people throughout the Arab world is another image of the spirit of success, steadfastness, heroism, struggle, and jihad in the Mother of Battles.

Therefore, O comrades, all that has been achieved is the fruit of your work. You should not think that what happened is exceptional. The fact is that what happened is the rule. Had we not been able to achieve this over the past 25 years, this means that we were not on the required level of maturity and faith to achieve what has been achieved. If we want to be accurate, we would say that the Mother of Battles is the natural result of the development of the party over the past 25 years in this state, in your struggling country Iraq.

O comrades, our hope is great and our endeavor is serious to do what satisfies God, the Ba'th, and you. If we fail in something we will be honest in explaining the failure and its causes.

I wish the comrades who won in the elections success in their mission and I thank you, O comrades, for your confidence. Success comes from God.

[Signed] The Pan-Arab Command, 10 January 1993

Press Launches 'Withering Attack' on Bush

NC1101150993 Paris AFP in English 1436 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Excerpts] Baghdad, Jan 11 (AFP)—Iraq's official press on Monday launched a withering attack on U.S. President George Bush, describing him as a "hysterical criminal" bent on creating a new conflict before leaving office.

"We do not pretend to be advisors to (president-elect) Clinton, or anyone else, but we laugh at a vanquished president who during his last days is still making threats and provoking crises," said the government daily AL-JUMHURIYAH.

AL-QADISIYAH, the Defence Ministry's newspaper, accused Bush of "having slid into hysteria... at a time when he is on his way to the dustbin of history."

Added BABIL, a daily run by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's eldest son, Udai: "Bush wants to provoke more bloodshed before leaving power." [passage omitted]

But the ruling Ba'th Party newspaper AL-THAWRAH said in an editorial "there is still a chance for a serious and honest dialogue" although it stressed Iraq was determined to defend its sovereignty and rights.

Agency Says Regime Not Linked to Worker's Death

JN0901171993 (Clandestine) Radio Kurdistan in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Australian relief agency operating in Iraqi Kurdistan has stopped operations after one of its workers was killed and another injured. It is worth mentioning that this is the main agency extending fuel and food aid to the Kurds as part of the overall UN assistance program.

An Australian official in the Australian capital said that the incident occurred in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate when the two relief workers were returning from a village in Iraqi Kurdistan where they tried to solve a dispute over fuel distribution. On their return, unidentified gunmen stopped their car and opened fire with machine guns.

The Australian relief agency said that the incident was the result of a dispute between conflicting Kurdish groups and that the Iraqi regime had no link with the incident, especially since the regime has no authority in the (?strategic) areas of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Kurds Demonstrate Over Shooting

BK1001061893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0546 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] CANBERRA, Jan 10 (AFP)—Thousands of Kurds have demonstrated in northern Iraq in protest about the shooting of two Australian aid workers, one fatally, the aid agency CARE Australia said Sunday. Local Kurds lined the streets of Sulaymaniyah to pay their respects as the body of Stuart Cameron, 45, left the Kurdish town with wounded colleague 43-year-old Joe Martinico, CARE said in a statement. Local officials and militia formed an honour guard as the convoy of CARE staff, United Nations Guards and UNICEF passed out of the town.

CARE, the major implementing agency of the U.N.'s winter program in Northern Iraq, has been providing kerosene, food and other humanitarian assistance to the Kurdish population facing sub-zero winter weather conditions. But the agency has suspended all operations pending a full report on the shooting by its senior officials.

Thousands of Kurds had earlier demonstrated, demanding that those guilty of the shooting be brought to justice, CARE said. One man has reportedly been arrested.

Martinico, of Melbourne, received wounds to the arm and shoulder when he and Cameron were shot Thursday by gunmen who flagged down their vehicle, clearly marked CARE and U.N. They had been trying to settle a dispute over food and kerosene distribution in a nearby village.

Turkish doctors will examine Martinico, who still has a bullet lodged in his upper left arm. CARE said his injuries have been X-rayed and is resting comfortably. He will possibly undergo minor surgery to remove the bullet before being evacuated to Australia.

Cameron's body will be returned to Australia on the first flight from Turkey, for cremation in his home city of Brisbane.

"The CARE team in Sulaymaniyah and their colleagues in Irbil and Dahuk are deeply shaken by this incident," CARE Australia's Middle East Regional Director in Amman Robert Yallop said.

"However, they are standing together as a team and are eager to maintain the spirit of Stuart Cameron's humanitarian commitment."

Yallop said that local Kurdish CARE staff have been placed temporarily under the supervision of U.N. aid workers in order to continue the movement of relief convoys into northern Iraq.

UN Seeking Solution Without Deportee Return

TA1201113193 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 12 Jan 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Ori Nir, and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali is seeking to resolve the deportee problem in a way that will not necessarily entail their return to Israel, a political figure who was involved in contacts with the secretary general's two envoys said yesterday.

In recent days, Butrus-Ghali has been speaking of the need to resolve the crisis without mentioning the demand to return the deportees. In his meetings in Jerusalem this week, envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan said that humanitarian gestures are important, but they are not part of his mandate here.

Israeli elements who met with him got the impression that the Indian diplomat understands that the deportees' return would have grave repercussions from Israel's viewpoint and that, therefore, the Security Council resolution calling for their return cannot be applied. Government sources noted that they had received messages from senior Palestinian figures warning that the deportees' return would be seen as a major victory for Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], which would deal a serious blow to the moderate, peace- supporting elements in the territories.

The Palestinians are proposing settling on interim solutions, such as humanitarian aid, the return of the mistakenly deported, or the expeditious handling of petitions to the appeal committees.

If Lebanon lifts its objection to International Red Cross [IRC] personnel flying to the deportees' encampment, Israel will ask the IRC representatives to offer the deportees the opportunity to sign powers of attorney that will enable their lawyers to petition the appeal committees. Only two deportees have submitted such petitions to date, and the appeal committee has not yet discussed their cases.

At this week's cabinet meeting, the prime minister and the ministers were informed that, contrary to the information they received at the meeting at which they voted for the deportations, the shortest deportation term meted out was 18 and not nine months. When Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin mentioned that the deportation terms range from nine to 24 months, a defense establishment representative corrected him, saying that none of the deportees had been removed for less than 18 months. [passage omitted]

It was learned yesterday from a senior government source that the prime minister has examined a proposal to move the deportees to the security zone. According to him, General Antoine Lahd, commander of the SLA [South Lebanese Army], is sharply opposed to the idea, and defense elements fear that SLA troops would slaughter the deportees. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Discusses Impact of Deportation on Talks

TA1101184393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Special UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan will leave Israel tomorrow. Tonight he held talks in Jerusalem with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin. The discussion centered on the multilateral peace talks. Following the meeting, reporter Mark Weiss asked Gharekhan how he thinks the deportation will affect the Middle East peace process:

[Begin recording] [Gharekhan] The Palestinian delegation told me two days ago in very categorical terms that if the deportees are not brought back, they will not take part in the peace process.

[Weiss] And apart from that?

[Gharekhan] Well, isn't that enough of an impact?

[Weiss] What about the Arab states?

[Gharekhan] I don't know. I believe the Arab foreign ministers are meeting in Cairo today.

[Weiss] How would you sum up your visit?

[Gharekhan] It's not yet over. [end recording]

Our reporter asked Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin if he believes the peace process can continue without Israel returning the deportees:

[Begin recording] [Beilin] It should continue, I hope that it will continue. I believe that what was done, was done among other reasons in order to preserve the continuation and the process itself vis-a-vis the enemies of the peace process. We hope that our partners for the peace process will understand the motivation behind it and will participate in the process itself.

[Weiss] It seems now a real possibility that the UN Security Council will at least discuss the possibility of imposing sanctions against Israel. How worried are you by such a step?

[Beilin] Well, I cannot say that I am not worried, but I hope that this will not be the situation and that members of the Security Council will understand the circumstances which were conducive to this resolution. The situation was very, very complicated and difficult, and I am not sure whether the members of the Security Council would have themselves other ideas, or better ideas, to deal with the problem than our decision to remove on a temporary basis those people. [end recording]

Editorial Views Results of Rabin-UN Envoy's Talks

TA1101151193 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 11 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Crisis With the United Nations"]

[Text] The grave look on the faces of the prime minister and the UN envoy when they addressed the media after two hours of secret discussions was enough to make us realize: A crisis is on.

Rabin's small humanitarian gestures—his agreement to return those mistakenly deported; allowing access to the deportees' encampment through Israeli territory; extending the 60-day limit on filing appeals against the deportation; and his promise to consider returning old-time deportees—were to no avail.

Unusually candid but surprisingly tough, the UN envoy said he has no interest at all in those gestures. His task was to attain the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 799—returning all of the deportees—which he did not achieve. Now he will report to the UN secretary general.

A close examination of everything that was said and written on this affair will undoubtedly reveal that the original hostility against all of Israel's attempts to compromise emanated from the UN secretary general himself. As a matter of fact, we have witnessed a very professional orchestration which sought to block any Israeli gesture, and channel the public opinion to a single demand—returning the deportees—backed by a threat of a UN condemnation and perhaps even sanctions.

In view of the above, it is hard to avoid the following question: Why were the Israeli humanitarian gestures made at all, if they helped no one, and only singled out new areas in which we could be pressured?

Yet, it may well be that the gestures were not made in the honor of the UN envoy or the man who dispatched him, but in response to a U.S. request and a promise to veto too grave steps against Israel. We have to wait and see how things develop to clarify this point.

Rabin Warns UN Sanctions 'Will Not Help' Talks

TA1001195793 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by political correspondent Gadi Sukenik]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Ambassador Shoval—our ambassador in the United States, who is due to end his term soon— has transmitted an unofficial U.S. commitment to impose a veto on sanctions against Israel. There is no assurance that will happen. The prime minister said today that he hopes very much that the Americans will impose a veto. UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan told him not to depend on it, saying that it is no longer as acceptable for a veto to be imposed in the Security Council. It has not been done for a long time; take care, he said.

To conclude, we will hear Prime Minister Rabin's and Ambassador Gharekhan's references to the issue at their joint news conference.

[Begin recording] [Rabin] I want to say simply: We stand by the government decision, since it is clear that we are not talking about a permanent deportation, but one for a certain period, which may change after each of those who have been removed appeals to the appeals committees.

[Sukenik] Do you take into account the possibility that the United Nations Security Council could impose sanctions on Israel?

[Rabin] I do not want to predict what the Security Council will decide. I did all I could to make it clear that grave steps by the Security Council will, in my view, seriously damage the chances to continue the peace talks because harming Israel will cause the Arab delegations to present more extreme demands on the assumption that Israel is being weakened, and of course, that will not help the chances for success in the peace talks. [passage omitted] [end recording]

U.S. Stand on Sanctions Viewed

TA1201073193 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Report by political correspondent Natan Gutman]

[Text] UN envoy Chinmaya Gharekhan is leaving Israel this afternoon. His mission, needless to say, has ended in failure. In every meeting he held, Gharekhan reiterated that he had come to Israel only to discuss the full implementation of Security Council Resolution 799, which calls for the return of the deportees, and not to discuss compromises or gestures. Gharekhan's Israeli interlocutors were determined to make it equally clear to him that the return of the deportees was out of the question. Now, Gharekhan will report to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on the results of his mission.

This report, together with the report from the previous envoy, James Jonah, is supposed to help Butrus-Ghali present a conclusive report to the Security Council. The assumption is that Butrus-Ghali will not present the report to the Security Council before he returns to New York on 18 January. It therefore follows that the Security Council will only hold a debate on the affair after 20 January, the date Bill Clinton assumes office.

This fact places Israel in a state of some embarrassment. Its diplomatic efforts to prevent Security Council sanctions are currently being directed at the outgoing U.S. Administration. No one knows how the new administration will act, and right now there is no way to influence it.

Political sources in Jerusalem nevertheless believe that the humanitarian gestures Israel has been exerting efforts

to make, although failing to impress the United Nations, have definitely had an influence on the United States. The sources opined that if Israel pursues its policy of implementing minor but constant improvements in the deportees' living conditions, it may soften the position of the U.S. Administration. Although the Americans are not willing to commit themselves to a veto of any Security Council resolution calling for sanctions against Israel, officials in Jerusalem assume that humanitarian gestures and improvements in the deportees' living conditions may influence Washington to veto such a resolution.

Longtime Deportees To Be Allowed to Appeal

TA1001142593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Prime Minister Rabin has promised to raise with security elements the possibility of allowing people deported a long time ago to return home. Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Rabin acquiesced to a proposal raised by Minister Amnon Rubinstein during today's cabinet session. Another decision made today was to permit the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees to appeal their deportation without any time limitation. A proposal raised by Minister Shetrit that the government undertake to refrain from deporting again the Hamas activists who will be returned home will be discussed on a different occasion.

Rabin Considers U.S. Middle East Envoy Idea

TA1201114193 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has reservations about the new U.S. Administration's idea of appointing a special envoy for Middle East affairs. Rabin is afraid that such an envoy may harm direct negotiations between Israel and the Arabs.

Political sources in Jerusalem confirmed last night that Rabin expressed reservations about this still tentative idea in a meeting with heads of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee Jewish lobby this week. The sources claim that Rabin believes the appointment of such an envoy might lead the Arabs to think that the United States is not according primary significance to the Middle East negotiations and that, in any event, only the intervention of senior U.S. statesmen, such as the President or secretary of state, will prod the negotiations toward real progress. The sources add that Rabin also fears that the Arabs would prefer to negotiate through the envoy rather than with Israel directly.

Meanwhile, the possibility of the appointment of such an envoy inspired Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin to attack several U.S. Jewish leaders sharply who, according to him, had voiced reservations about the envoy idea without consulting Jerusalem in advance. [passage omitted]

The prime minister's office, which confirmed last night that Rabin had expressed reservations about the envoy's appointment, added that it had not asked any Jewish leaders to express reservations in contacts with the new administration. [passage omitted]

Beilin said yesterday that the envoy idea has both positive and negative aspects and that Israel has not formulated a definite stand on the issue as yet. The idea can be positive, Beilin said, "if the special envoy is very serious and familiar with the process and the parties involved and if he enjoys the parties' respect." Replying to a question concerning the possible appointment of Pickering to the position, Beilin said: "Personally, I know no one better than him."

U.S. To Receive Information on Hamas Links

TA1001131393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 93 p 2

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] The security forces will hand to U.S. Administration officials information gathered in Israel pertaining to the connection between Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Palestinian and Islamic elements in the United States, on the assumption that U.S. legal authorities will take action against these elements.

In talks with Israeli officials over the weekend, elements at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv voiced amazement over revelations aired by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari on Israel television's Friday newsreel, according to which a major part of the Hamas activities in the territories is financed and organized by Palestinians living in the western United States.

It was stated last night in Jerusalem that the material broadcast by Israel television had been seized by the security forces in the course of the mass arrests of Hamas activists which followed the kidnapping of late border policeman Nisim Toledano, and put at Ya'ari's disposal for his report. It was further stated that the information concerning the U.S. factor will be handed to the United States on the assumption that it will act on it to the extent possible.

It was further stated yesterday that it had been found out that the United States has been serving as a base for radical Islamic elements in Egypt as well, and that a considerable part of the incendiary propaganda, the financing, and the organizational activities originate with radical elements congregated in New Jersey in eastern United States.

Further on Hamas Offices in U.S.

TA1101120093 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Jan 93 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar, Yo'av Kaspi, and the military correspondent]

[Text] Sources in Jerusalem claim that Israel has already known for many months about the location of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] offices in the United States, and its decision to go public with this information at this time was timed to embarrass the United States for not taking any action against the activities of a terrorist organization on its soil. The sources claim that by raising the issue through direct and indirect channels, Israel hoped to promote demands that the U.S. Government act to stop such activity on its soil before criticizing Israel for taking similar or other steps.

At yesterday's cabinet session, Minister Yosi Sarid from the Meretz faction asked the prime minister whether there is any new information on Hamas, as the fact that the organization operates from Virginia has been known to all those involved for a very long time. 'AL HAMISHMAR has learned that the reply to Sarid's question gave the ministers no new information.

In reaction to the administration's displeasure over Israel Television's broadcasting the fact that the Hamas leadership is located in the United States on its Friday evening newsreel, 'Oded Ben-'Ami, the defense minister's media adviser, said that nothing had been coordinated with the U.S. authorities regarding the content of the reports. He said that the Americans were not informed in advance that the report would be aired.

Ben-'Ami added that the Americans do not need Israel Television to know that the Hamas leadership is sitting in their country.

When asked why the information was not first delivered to U.S. intelligence, Ben-'Ami said that reports that the Hamas leadership is located in the United States are not new and that extensive details on the matter had been published in recent weeks by Israeli journalists, including Ron Ben-Yishay and Nahum Barne'a, who wrote about the issue in greater detail than the television report.

Ben-'Ami said that the major novelty in the television report was the pictures and the visual drama.

He added that the government does not coordinate broadcast times with Israel Television and is not expected to give the United States prior warning about this or that television report.

Ben-'Ami claimed that there has been no official U.S. reaction to the release of the report. He noted that the report's publication on 8 January had absolutely nothing to do with the fact that the chief of staff is currently on an official visit to the United States.

Command Claimed To Be in U.S.

TA0801204093 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1830 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Studio discussion between moderator Yisra'el Segal and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari—live]

[Excerpts] [Segal] In the last wave of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] detentions in the territories it transpired that over the last two years this underground has undergone a reorganization, intended to prepare it to act after an autonomy agreement is reached between Israel and the Palestinians. The underground was divided into separate, self-contained branches, one of which was slated to take part in the elections [for the autonomy], while the other continues with the armed struggle. Good evening to you, Ehud Ya'ari. Where is this underground operated from?

[Ya'ari] Largely, perhaps also very surprisingly, from the United States. Hamas activists who reside in the United States are currently the center for guiding and generally running the underground in the territories. We should understand that following the large wave of detentions in October 1990, Hamas in the territories underwent a reform or reorganization. This is becoming increasingly mroe clear lately. In everything related to the appointment of local Hamas activists and coordinators in the various regions, to guidance for activity, to the adoption of political decisions—there is an ongoing communication between Hamas activists residing in North America, in the United States, and those in the area, and there is, in fact, no command in the area. They tried to set up a command in the area. Most of the branches of that command, including its monetary unit, were liquidated through the security forces' detentions at the end of 1990. The lesson they drew from this is that the command which manages activity in the territories should be located outside the territories, while in the area itself there is no single command anymore, but rather a division into various sectors and branches of well-defined activity. The result is that the main activity is directed from the United States. I would say that just as Tunis still plays a key role for the various PLO bodies, it is a leadership located in the United States which fills that role for Hamas.

[Segal] I understand that we know who the leaders in the United States are.

[Ya'ari] The U.S. leadership is made up of Palestinian activists from the territories who are in the United States at the moment. There is open activity in the United States. Let me give you an example. One of the most important Hamas organs, named ILA FALASTIN, meaning TOWARD PALESTINE, was printed, until a while ago to the best of my knowledge, in Culver City, Los Angeles, which is, incidentally, not far from the site of the Shim'on Wiesenthal Center's holocaust museum.

[Segal] How do the deportees fit into this picture? Was the act of deportation a blow indeed, when the entire operation is actually directed from the United States?

[Ya'ari] The guidance emanates from the United States. The 415 deportees who were removed from the area mostly belonged to the central branch which they built. What they did over the last two years was to divide the organization, to separate the various branches of

activity. They learned that when the entire organization, with all its branches, acts as a single framework, it is ultimately uncovered and beaten, as was the case several times since the intifadah broke out. What they did then was to divide the organization into three different branches. First, the propaganda branch, called Da'wah in Arabic, which includes all overt institutions of the Muslim Brotherhood movement which we know of: educational institutes; charity associations; mosques; clubs; activity involving fund raising and the receipt of donations, usually funds transferred from the United States through money changers who collect their commission; and also participation in elections. On numerous occasions we have witnessed Islamic blocs running for and also winning local elections in the territories for various associations and institutions. So much for this.

Then, the central branch that they established is the covert Hamas branch. This is the real, big branch, which they have lately organized into four commands. First, a command in Gaza, which is self-contained, directly connected with operators and addresses in the United States. People who belong to the Hamas Executive Committee, or the political office, as it is called, as well as people who belong to a larger body which probably convenes less frequently, the advisory council, reside in the United States. There are three additional regional commands in the West Bank, as is the case with most other organizations, including Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine: a southern command, centered around Hebron mainly; a central command, centered around Jerusalem and its environs; and a northern command, centered around Nabulus mainly.

[Segal] Are the West Bank commands subject to the one in the Gaza Strip?

[Ya'ari] Each such command is directly subject to the U.S. address, even if there may be occasional ties among these commands.

The third branch is the military one, the so-called 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squads. They totally separated the military mechanism, the terrorist squads and wanted people, from the other two branches mentioned above, for a simple reason: They want the political Hamas mechanism, which carries out underground activity, organizes demonstrations, drafts people, and so on and so forth, to stand on its own two feet.

[Segal] Does this mechanism too receive instructions from the United States?

[Ya'ari] It is in constant touch with the United States. [passage omitted]

The area itself was divided into four regions, as we have said: one in Gaza, and three in the West Bank. Each region is controlled by a regional commander who is appointed by Hamas people located outside the territories or in the United States. Subordinate to him is the person responsible for the region who is also appointed by and is in contact with outside Hamas people. Subject to him is a committee, which is in charge of occasions, ahdath in Arabic, which organizes various types of violent activity, in fact. Finally, the committee is followed by people who are in charge of the various districts within the region. Reference here is to very small teams of people, with the help of which and using remote control tactics, Hamas tried to reestablish the underground. The recent deportation, although it is premature to judge its result, removed most of the people who were appointed and who held positions in the system itself, but naturally, it has not eliminated the fabric prepared in those rallies.

[Segal] The command itself, as you have said, has remained in the United States.

[Ya'ari] To the best of our knowledge, yes.

[Segal] Thank you very much Ehud Ya'ari.

Cabinet Briefed on Connection

TA1101191793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 93 pp A1, A8

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, has demanded that the United States use its influence and pressure Saudi Arabia to stop providing funds to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the territories. It has been reported that he has already discussed the issue with the Americans several times.

The money may have been allocated to charity and social activity in the territories, but large parts of it have reached the Hamas' military arm, and is being used for terror activities and operations countering the peace process. Hamas also receives funds from the Muslim Brothers in Jordan, but the sums there are much smaller.

The funds coming from Saudi Arabia are not supplied by the government, but are donated by Saudi notables. At the same time, it is hard to assume that such contributions are made without the government's knowledge, and it appears that in doing so, the Saudis wish to prevent Iranian activity among the religious groups in the territories. This has not prevented Hamas from opening a liaison office in Tehran, although the Iranians are more active among the Islamic Jihad, in mainly its Shaqiqi faction and the Mahna [as published] faction, known as "Hizballah Falastin."

The cabinet will be briefed today about Hamas activity in the United States and the instructions issued there to Hamas activists in the territories. This activity was first revealed on 8 January on the Israel Television weekly newsreel by its Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari.

Israel has known about the activity of the U.S. branch of Hamas for a long time, and the issue has been raised in discussions between Jerusalem and Washington. This

mainly refers to activities of U.S. citizens of Arab origin, some of whom reside in Virginia and others in California. They issue instructions for the territories, including orders to carry out terror acts, and receive reports about activities in the field. Although the relations are not similar to those between Fatah activists in the territories and PLO headquarters in Tunis, the importance of the Hamas operators in the United States has increased after the security forces managed to hit Hamas leaders in the territories on several occasions in the past.

At the same time, Hamas is not the only organization operating in the United States. The Islamic Jihad's Shaqiqi faction, considered more extreme and murderous, has activists there as well. In addition, both Hamas and the Islamic Jihad have been making efforts to set up some infrastructure in Europe, and Hamas has an active branch in Britain.

Some information on contacts between Hamas activists in the territories and the United States will probably be reported to the Americans after the cabinet session. Solid information on the American Hamas activists, connecting them to terror acts, is required to allow the U.S. authorities to detain them. Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-Rahman, one of the Egyptian Jihad activists lives in the United States, and although he has incited for the murder of tourists in Egypt and Egyptian leaders, he has not been detained by the Americans. It appears that he is being watched by the FBI, and Israeli sources hope that the same would be done with the Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists.

Appeal to U.S. on Hamas Doubted

TA1101162993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 11 Jan 93 p 9

[Editorial: "The American Connection of Hamas"]

[Text] The Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement's American connection was not exposed two days ago. Israeli political and defense figures spoke of it around the time hundreds of the movement's activists were detained and deported a few weeks ago. The decision to tout a host of details about this connection was supposed to embarrass the Washington administration as it weighs its policy toward Israel concerning the deportations.

Israel naturally has the right to take action against Islamic—Arab or other—terrorism outside its borders. The prohibitions applicable to Israeli espionage inside the United States are less strict when the action involves the gathering of information about Israel's foes—a totally different course of action than spying on the American establishment itself (see the Pollard affair). At the same time, the Israeli Government—particularly one whose actions are based on emergency regulations and efforts to confine the liberties of inhabitants of the occupied territories—should have a more profound understanding of both the advantages and the disadvantages of the American system.

In America, citizens—and often residents—enjoy constitutional freedom of speech and protection from an infringement of their other rights by the authorities, and constitution stands above all. In the case of a dispute between U.S. citizens—even Hamas supporters—and a foreign government—even the one in Jerusalem—the U.S. courts (to whom the alleged victims will appeal for help) will lean toward their citizens. As for the Washington administration, it was burnt in darker ages—down to and including the Nixon era—by criminal incursions into private affairs, and will not seek to inveigle itself in this way during the Clinton era.

Elements enjoying political clout in the United States have fully exploited the possibility to extend assistance—by counsel and contribution—to foreign organizations. Israel was one of these during the critical period prior to and just after the state establishment, when its supporters moved money, weapons, and volunteers for the IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] war against Arab armies, violating neutrality and embargo laws. Recently the IRA, which meticulously separates its political arm from the military branch responsible for terrorist attacks, has taken advantage of the possibility. U.S. politicians of Irish descent, including some who have supported Israel in other contexts, pressured U.S. authorities in a bid to secure the release of imprisoned Irishmen suspected of terrorist attacks in Britain.

The Arab-Muslim community in the United States has successfully imitated several courses of action pursued by the U.S. Jewish community, such as the Washington lobbying and the link with the "old country," be it Iran (mainly during the shah's reign, and again after news of the agony inflicted by Khomeyni's regime leaked out), the various Arab countries, or the Palestinians. The Marj 'Uyun hospital, to which fortunate sick Hamas deportees are supposed to be evacuated, boasts a plaque with the names of foreign donors—mostly from North America.

Israel will have to supply the U.S. authorities with proof (and not only intelligence materiel) of alleged offenses committed in the United States, and it had better be of higher quality than the evidence provided for John Demjanjuk's extradition. The American side does not operate like Israel. Sometimes this is convenient for Israel, and sometimes—as in the Hamas affair—less so.

Paper Comments on Hamas, U.S. Ties

TA1001150993 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 10 Jan 93 p 2

[Editorial: "A Den of Vipers in the United States"]

[Text] The Israeli public was astounded by Israel Television's Friday night newsreel report that the headquarters of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is located in the United States.

Hitherto it had been thought that the commanders of this murderous organization were hiding in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank refugee camps and were being

financed and directed by the fathers of the Islamic revolution in Tehran. The close relations between Hamas and Islamic Jihad members in the territories and their counterparts in Lebanon, Egypt and North Africa have also been common knowledge.

Suddenly it has transpired—on the basis of solid and well-documented material which has reached Israel—that the real hornet's nest is located somewhere in Virginia and that the commands calling for the despicable murder of Jews or Palestinians suspected of collaboration emanate from the heartland of the United States.

The Israeli Government, which is scheduled to address this issue in today's cabinet session, must urgently and sharply forward the following questions to the U.S. Administration: Are you cognizant of what we in Israel have just learned? Is it possible that your intelligence agencies have failed to uncover the real operations of these so-called spiritual centers of Islamic fundamentalism? And now that you have all the proof you need right before your eyes, what action do you intend to take to get rid of this den of vipers in your land?

State To Permit Supervision of Nonconventional Arms

TA1201054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Israel will permit the mutual supervision of nonconventional weapons of mass destruction during peacetime.

Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that this readiness on the part of Israel will be enunciated by Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres tomorrow when he speaks in Paris at the signing ceremony of the chemical weapons nonproliferation treaty. The treaty will be signed by the representatives of over 120 countries. The Arab states have refused to sign the treaty, claiming Israel possesses a nuclear weapons arsenal.

The Prime Minister's Office, the Foreign Ministry, and security elements recently held a series of consultations to coordinate positions and formulate this declaration of readiness. This is the first time an Israeli leader will publicly declare Israel's readiness to participate in disarming the Middle East of nonconventional weapons.

Our correspondent Hayim Hecht adds that when Likud Knesset Member David Mena' learned of the details of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' upcoming speech, he sent a wire to the prime minister demanding that the foreign minister be forbidden to make such commitments in Israel's name.

[Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew on 12 January in a report by 'Aqiva Eldar, Ori Nir, and Nitzan Horowitz on pages 1 and 8 reports that "Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres spoke on the phone yesterday evening with his Egyptian counterpart 'Amr Musa on the removal of weapons of mass destruction from the Middle East. Peres read Musa the gist of the speech he is scheduled to make tomorrow at the Paris convention, where the chemical weapons nonproliferation treaty will be signed." The report notes that "Peres told Musa that in his speech, he will call for disarming the Middle East of all kinds of weapons of mass destruction: chemical, biological, and nuclear. Peres will suggest that the disarming process take place after the Middle East has clearly reached a state of stable peace."]

Rabin To Offer Peace 'Package Deal' to Clinton

TA1001095993 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Jan 92 pp A1, A8

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] President-elect Bill Clinton has asked that Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin "promise practical moves" in the peace process so that he can accept Rabin's request to advance their meeting to early February. This was reported from Washington over the weekend.

Clinton's stipulation was formulated during meetings Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin and staffers of Israel's Embassy in Washington have held with senior officials of the incoming administration and the State Department. Judging from Clinton's remarks, it appears that there is no point in holding an early meeting between the two leaders unless it is guaranteed up-front that Rabin will present offers that could promote the negotiations with the Arabs.

Political sources in Jerusalem have confirmed this, saying that the prime minister is currently preparing a sort of "package deal" of ideas to promote the peace process. Among other things considered are formulas regarding a permanent arrangement that would satisfy the Palestinians.

Palestinian sources have recently clarified that they could present more flexible stands on the issue of the transitional arrangements, provided they are promised beforehand that Israel will not annex territories in the framework of the permanent arrangement. Jerusalem tends to meet the Palestinians half way on this issue by finding a formula that would not a priori rule out border modifications along the Green Line in the framework of the permanent arrangement.

[Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 10 January carries a page-1 report by Amnon Barzilay, adding: "The Palestinians have agreed to grant the Jewish settlements a special status during the interim arrangement period. This has become apparent in discussions Faysal al-Husayni, Sa'ib 'Urayqat, and Nabil Sha'th have held with EC representatives."]

In the package deal, Rabin is also considering making specific offers for a territorial arrangement with Syria.

Rabin intends to ask for Clinton's support for a comprehensive arrangement, and will even demand that the Americans provide economic and security guarantees.

Clinton's people have said that, despite the numerous domestic and international problems awaiting his attention, the Middle East peace process will feature high on Clinton's agenda. At the same time, in the discussions Beilin held with members of the incoming and outgoing U.S. Administrations—including incoming National Security Adviser Anthony Lake and his deputy Samuel Berger—it was pointed out to him that Washington fears no progress can be made in the peace process as long as the deportee affair is not solved.

It is hoped in the United States that the ruling of the High Court of Justice on this issue, expected on 17 January, will help solve the problem even before Clinton enters the White House.

Palestinian delegate Sa'ib 'Urayqat said last night that the Palestinian leaders intend to ask the Arab foreign ministers to pressure the United Nations for an ultimatum to Israel to return the deportees.

'Urayqat, who will attend the Arab foreign ministers' meeting on the deportations next week in Cairo, said: "I hope the meeting ends with an Arab resolution calling on the UN Security Council to pass a new resolution which would present an ultimatum to Israel if it does not implement UN Resolution 799 [calling for the return of the deportees]." 'Urayqat added that "if Israel does not comply with the ultimatum, the United Nations would impose certain sanctions on it." [passage omitted]

Sources Deny Syrian 'Behind the Scenes' Contacts

TA1001075993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Eldad Beck]

[Text] Israel and Syria have conducted no direct contacts behind the scenes. The only direct dialogue between the two countries took place in the formal framework of peace talks. Syria has absolutely no intention of clinching a separate deal with Israel behind the backs of the Palestinians and the other Arab countries. This was the response of Arab elements involved in the peace negotiations to the profusion of rumors in Israel regarding clandestine negotiations and arrangements between Jerusalem and Damascus.

Arab elements told IDF Radio that the Israeli interpretation of President al-Asad's recent remarks to the effect that Syria is ready to accept an interim arrangement on the Golan Heights even before a permanent one is attained, is erroneous. The Syrians will accept a phased permanent arrangement similar the one with Egypt, but not the Palestinian version under which an interim arrangement precedes negotiations on the permanent arrangement. Al-Asad rejected the Palestinian model in the past, and there is no reason why he should accept it now. Once and for all, the Syrian president would like to reach an arrangement with Israel under which Syria will regain all its lands.

According to other sources, however, when negotiations resume, Syria may temper its stand demanding that Israel pledge a complete withdrawal before Syria clarifies its stand on the substance of peace—but this outcome cannot be guaranteed. The cause of the possible change: President-elect Bill Clinton's statement at the end of last month implying support for the Israeli insistence on guarantees for the reciprocal steps Syria will make in return for Israel's withdrawal from the Golan. This is the first time the Americans have voiced an explicit stand on this issue, and Damascus will have to take it into account. These sources say that despite this pro-Israeli stand, Clinton has abstained from attacking Syria and President al-Asad since his election—a fact that will help Damascus and the next U.S. Administration achieve mutual trust.

Ministry Report Considers Clinton Appointees

TA1101144293

[Editorial Report] Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 11 January carries an article by Amnon Barzilay on pages 28 and 29 titled "They Are on Our Side," giving the details of an Israeli Foreign Ministry document analyzing President-elect Clinton's cabinet appointments.

Barzilay reports that "last weekend Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres received a detailed document analyzing Clinton's designated cabinet members and assessing how these appointments reflect his desire to change the U.S. priorities.

"The main conclusion drawn by the author of the document, Moshe Fuchs, deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry's North America Division, is that Clinton indeed intends to devote most of his intention to domestic affairs. For this reason Clinton's political and security appointments came last.

"Fuchs claims that the appointments 'buttress the impression that Clinton will be the real boss in every respect, and not merely as a result of the legal authority vested in him.' The document also states that Clinton's appointees are manifestly establishment figures. Fuchs claims that there are no surprise appointments or unknown figures among them. Most of them are old acquaintances who go a long way back and who meet Clinton's requirement of having an efficient and cooperative team under him.

"Peres and Rabin—the latter has also received a copy of Fuchs' report—will find that the report provides no assessments regarding the policy which the new administration is expected to pursue. Fuchs argues that all the appointees belong to the mainstream of the Democratic establishment...they are all pragmatists rather than ideologists. Consequently it is hard to foresee what policies

they will implement. All the appointees are pragmatists who believe in continuity, and are not known as visionaries."

Barzilay's article goes on to enumerate the appointees, including some biographical details, but concentrating on their attitude toward Israel. The list opens with Thomas McLarty of Arkansas, the designated White House chief of staff, who is described as "an extremely surprising appointment, especially due to the fact that he has no experience in Washington. Fuchs claims that Clinton appointed McLarty because he wants to work with a man with whom he has a longstanding and intimate acquaintance, whom he can trust and with whom he will feel comfortable."

Moving on to Warren Christopher, Clinton's appointee for the post of secretary of state, the document states that despite the fact that Christopher served in Carter's administration—which was deeply involved in the peace process between Israel and Egypt—"Christopher was not very involved in Middle East issues in general and with Israel in particular." According to Fuchs' report, "Christopher is an excellent performer, but notably lacking in charisma and vision." Fuchs goes on to state that "Christopher pays close attention to details, is very accurate in the implementation stage, an excellent negotiator, a decent, polite and unflappable man." Fuchs also states that "it is generally believed in the United States that Christopher will not deviate from the present foreign policy."

Turning to Les Aspin, designated secretary of defense, Fuchs' report notes that "Aspin is considered to be a friend of Israel, who is sensitive to its security needs. Aspin's voting record in Congress supports this claim. Since his appointment, he has constantly voted in favor of the annual U.S. aid to Israel."

Referring to Anthony Lake's appointment to the post of national security adviser, Fuchs notes that "Lake is considered to be a pragmatist who is uncommitted to any ideology. He is also known to favor a stronger United Nations as a means of solving international crises."

Based on reports coming from the Israeli Embassy in Washington, Madeleine Albright, the future U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, "is unfamiliar with Middle East issues, but her attitude to Israel is positive."

Fuchs' report next turns to James Woolsey Jr., who is designated as the next CIA chief. According to the report Woolsey, who has served with four U.S. Administrations, "specializes in issues relating to arms control and nuclear arms strategy. Woolsey considers his main goals in the CIA to be preventing the proliferation of mass destruction weapons, curbing international terrorism, and decreasing national and ethnic hostilities."

Next turning to Clinton's designated secretary of treasury, the report notes that "Lloyd Bentsen is considered to be fair in his attitude toward Israel. His voting record, however, points to a reserved and inconsistent support of U.S. aid to Israel. Bentsen supported the legislation against the Arab boycott, against the sale of AWACS [Airborne Warning and Command System] planes to Saudi Arabia, but he also opposed the loan guarantees for the absorption of immigrants."

Fuchs' report also devotes a chapter to Hillary Clinton, who according to the report, "should be added to the list of people who will sit around Clinton's cabinet table." The report notes that "the manner in which Hillary Clinton reacted to her husband's alleged scandals are a sign both of her great sophistication and her deep influence on her husband's political future." The report also indicates that "although Hillary Clinton will have no official function, Bill Clinton will be attentive to her opinions."

Shin Bet Chief on PLO Law Abolition

TA1101170693 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Report by Knesset correspondent Dov Gilhar]

[Text] The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today heard the Shin Bet chief's views on the abolition of the ban on meetings with the PLO. The Shin Bet chief abstained from voicing a clear stand either for or against the law, although he enumerated the various considerations for and against abolishing the ban. Committee members had the impression that the number of factors against abolishing the law is greater than those in favor, but the Shin Bet chief noted that the issue should not be resolved on the basis of the number of arguments, but rather on the basis of their weight.

The Shin Bet chief raised several arguments against abolishing the ban. In his view, ban abolition may result in an uncontrollable flood of encounters between Israelis and PLO personnel. According to him, Israelis may meet with PLO personnel in good faith and to divulge information unwittingly. In this way, the PLO will be able to have more information concerning the range of political views in Israel.

The Shin Bet chief noted that if the law is indeed about to change, it would be better if permits for meetings with representatives of terrorist organizations were issued selectively, taking the nature of the various organizations and of the planned meetings into consideration.

The Shin Bet chief was asked whether there should be a differentiation between peace-supporting organizations and those opposing peace. He replied that such a differentiation is not easy, because statistically it is Fatah that perpetrates the greatest number of attacks, although it is unknown whether it always receives its instructions from upper PLO echelons.

One of the Shin Bet chief's pro-abolition arguments was the fact that it will strengthen the PLO vis-a-vis Hamas

[Islamic Resistance Movement], yet he expressed reservations about this as well, saying that it may strengthen the overseas branch of the PLO. The Shin Bet chief added that were he Faysal al-Husayni, he would be against abolishing the ban on meetings with the PLO because he would fear that 'Arafat's power may grow as a result.

Although parliamentary sources continue asserting even now that the Shin Bet has indicated that it will not oppose the abolition of the law, the Shin Bet chief was most cautious today, managing to stay out of the political storm.

EC Members Express 'Amazement' at Rabin 'Verbal Attack'

TA1001110393 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 10 Jan 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Text] EC representatives have expressed amazement at Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's verbal attack on the EC last week. They said they did not understand either the meaning or the timing of the attack.

They voiced their amazement during a meeting held by Mordekhay Drori, Israel's ambassador at the EC, with one of the EC commissioners, former Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek.

A senior EC official has announced that there has been no delay in the Israel-EC negotiations for a new economic agreement. He added the EC delegation's January visit to Israel was canceled because of technical problems only.

At a lecture last week, Rabin attacked the imbalance in economic ties between Israel and the EC, noting that the trade gap between the two was the result of Europe's restrictive policy. Rabin said Israel was the victim of bias and the Europeans' declarations describing their market as open and free are incompatible with their conduct.

Last weekend Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres sent messages to all the EC foreign ministers in anticipation of his meeting with the European Cooperation Council [organization name as published] in Brussels on 1 February. Peres said ways to promote the peace process would be discussed, and urged settlement of the Israel-EC disagreements in appropriate talks.

Peres will meet most of the European foreign ministers in Paris on 13 January. There on behalf of Israel, he will sign the treaty banning nuclear arms manufacture and distribution. In the course of this visit, Peres may meet with U.S. Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger and UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali.

After Peres' Paris trip, two Foreign Ministry assistant director generals—'Oded 'Eran, in charge of economics, and Uri Savir, in charge of Europe, will travel to Brussels to discuss the future of the negotiations on Israeli-EC economic agreements with EC officials. These negotiations, which began last month, are due to resume in Brussels in February.

Ukraine's Kravchuk Calls For Stronger Ties

TA1101123893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk has arrived on his first visit to Israel. This is the first visit to Israel by a president from the CIS. In his meetings in Israel, President Kravchuk hopes to expand economic and commercial ties and sign agreements on cultural cooperation. Our correspondent Mira Amsalem reports from the welcoming ceremony for the Ukrainian guest at the president's residence in Jerusalem:

[Begin recording] [Amsalem] The ceremony opened with the national anthems of both countries, with the Ukrainian anthem being played first. The one-year-old Ukrainian republic has an anthem, but it still lacks its own national currency. Israel is but one stop on Ukraine's road to economic independence and its own national currency.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk arrived with an entourage of approximately 15 officials, including the Ukrainian agricultural minister and the president's economic adviser. In his meetings in Israel, Kravchuk will discuss economic and commercial agreements between the two countries, the establishment of direct flights, and agreements on agricultural and cultural cooperation. The talks will not revolve solely around economic matters. Ukraine, the second largest republic after Russia, has a population of approximately 50 million, with a large Jewish community of over 500,000 people. President Herzog alluded to this link in his welcoming speech.

[Herzog] As you know, these relations have known many ups and downs. There were difficult periods, as well as better times. We feel that now these relations are constantly improving. Your visit to Israel serves as clear evidence of the new state of our relationship. We greatly appreciated your speech at Babi Yar, which constitutes both a symbol and yardstick in understanding the suffering of the Jewish people and the terrible loss of one-third of our people in the Holocaust. We further appreciate your call to the Ukrainian people to face history and reality as they really were.

[Amsalem] Visiting President Leonid Kravchuk devoted his speech to Ukraine's foreign policy, in which Israel and the Middle East in general play an important role. This visit is an important political step in expanding relations between the two countries.

[Kravchuk, in Ukrainian with superimposed translation by Amsalem] President Kravchuk speaks of expanding relations between the two countries—expanding but not establishing, because relations between the Ukrainian

and Jewish peoples have developed over many generations. The visiting president also expressed the hope for stronger relations between the two countries.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, Knesset Chairman Shevah Weiss, and several cabinet ministers attended the ceremony. The full ceremony took place at the president's residence and not, as is customary, in the Rose Garden, because of the rainy weather. [end recording]

Meets Rabin; Extends Invitation

TA1101181593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1700 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] This evening, Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk met Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and invited him to visit the Ukraine. Our correspondent Gil Litman reports that the prime minister told his guest that Israel is willing to make compromises to attain peace that includes security. Leonid Kravchuk said that the Ukraine has a political interest in seeing the situation in the Middle East improve.

Deputy Housing Minister Resigns To Run for Office

TA1101151993 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1430 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Meretz Knesset Member [MK] Ran Kohen has resigned from the post of deputy construction and housing minister. A short while ago, his decision was announced at the Knesset plenum by Construction and Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Eli'ezer.

Our Knesset affairs correspondent Dov Gilhar notes that MK Kohen intends to run for the position of Meretz faction chairman, which was vacated when Yosi Sarid joined the cabinet. He will compete against Hayim Oron.

Two Bombs Explode in Security Zone; Israelis Retaliate

NC1201110693 Paris AFP in English 1033 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Marj 'Uyun, Lebanon, Jan 12 (AFP)—Two bombs exploded Tuesday when an Israeli Army patrol drove through its buffer zone in south Lebanon, prompting Israeli shelling of suspected Muslim fundamentalist hideouts, security services said.

The security services did not know if Israeli soldiers were hurt in the simultaneous explosions in al-Mansuriyah, near Marj 'Uyun, the Israeli military headquarters in its self-declared "security zone." The area was immediately sealed off.

Half an hour after the attack Israeli artillery shelled suspected strongholds of the pro-Iranian Hizballah guerrillas in the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills, just north of the zone, Lebanese police said.

No group claimed responsibility for the explosions.

Bomb Damages Fatah Official's Home in Tyre

NC1101064693 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] A bomb has exploded in the home of Fatah official Husayn Gharam at al-Rashidiyah camp [in Tyre], causing extensive damage. Sources in the camp stated that Fatah security men had arrested and are questioning members of a network engaged in bombings inside the camp.

Dozens Arrested, Weapons Seized in Sidon Security Sweep

NC1001204493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 2000 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] We have received the following from a military source: Army forces deployed in Sidon implemented tight security measures including raids and inspections at 1000 on 10 January. Dozens of people were arrested and banned weapons, ammunition, wireless equipment, and military uniforms were seized. The detainees and the seized items were handed over to the authorities.

Al-Hariri Rules Out UN Role in Aiding Deportees

NC1001102593 Paris AFP in English 0952 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Excerpt] Beirut, Jan 10 (AFP)—Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri said Sunday that Lebanon would not allow UN peacekeepers to evacuate nine Palestinians mistakenly expelled by Israel nor deliver aid to the remainder.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) must evacuate the deportees or deliver aid by land from Israel "taking the same route as the deportees did to enter Lebanon," he told AFP.

The UN Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) would "exceed its mission" if it was used in the operation, al-Hariri told AFP. [passage omitted]

[Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic at 1000 GMT on 10 January reports: "Prime Minister al-Hariri told REUTER that the International Red Cross Committee will not be allowed to use the UN helicopter again to reach the Palestinian deportees. Al-Hariri added: We gave them permission to inspect the camp and check the conditions of the deportees—nothing else."]

Deportees Spokesman Praises Government Position

NC1101071093 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0530 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi, spokesman for the Palestinian deportees, has expressed appreciation for the Lebanese Government's position supporting the deportees' stand. He said this position will help greatly in preventing further deportations of Palestinians.

He said that the flight of the helicopter [to provide aid to the deportees] demonstrates Israel's recognition of its responsibility for this issue. He noted that this would not have happened had it not been for the Lebanese Government's firm stand. He said that the purpose of the Red Cross delegation's visit to the Palestinian camp was to assess health and living conditions. He noted that the Red Cross officials realized without any doubt that our living conditions are difficult, that water is not potable, and that we are suffering a severe medicine shortage.

NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY correspondents reported that rain water has flooded 20 tents belonging to deportees and that snow covers the camp.

Lebanese Islamic Group Aide on Political Progam

PM1101111593 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Jan 93 p 3

[Interview with Deputy As'ad Harmush, "head of the Lebanese Islamic Group visiting Saudi Arabia," by Jamal Khashuqji in Jeddah; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Khashuqji] What is the aim of your visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia?

[Harmush] We decided after the elections to visit the holy places to perform 'umrah [minor pilgrimage] and thank Almighty God for our victory in the elections. We are also eager to meet with Saudi officials to brief them on Muslims' conditions in Lebanon, especially after the implementation of the al-Ta'if agreement, in whose endorsement the kingdom played a major role and which has reflected positively on Lebanon in terms of security and stability. We also wish to explain the (Palestinian) deportees issue, the Lebanese Government's position, and the need to sympathize with this Islamic issue. And

we have met with the Lebanese community to urge its members to return and invest in the homeland. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] With your entry into parliament, has the Islamic Group moved from social action to political action?

[Harmush] We are working for a comprehensive Islamic plan that includes education, society, politics, and the economy. We contested the elections held before the war broke out in 1972, but the group did not win a single seat. Our political plan is an old one based on confronting the method of political tyranny and administrative corruption, and the Zionist settlement plan as well. Our recent election plan raised the "liberation and reform" slogan. And by this we mean liberating our occupied southern region and reforming the political structure. And we are working to move Lebanon from tribal, family, and sectarian rule to a state of constitutional institutions.

[Khashuqji] Is there any special relationship between you and Hizballah?

[Harmush] We are in contact with all political forces in Lebanon, including Hizballah. And our cooperation is not limited to the religious parties. We had Christian allies who contested the elections on our lists, such as Dr. Riyad Sarraf, who won in 'Akkar. We also had a Christian ally in Beirut, namely Kamil Shahadah, who did not win. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Among the Islamic movement's basic principles is that of working to build an Islamic state. Where does this fit in your political plan?

[Harmush] Ideologically, we believe that Islam requires us to establish God's rule on earth. But this equilibrium requires circumstances and conditions which are not available in Lebanon. The idea is theoretical and does not match the reality. This is why we advocate a civilian state in which all people coexist and are equal in terms of rights and duties. And we reject a religious, theocratic state. [passage omitted]

[Khashuqji] Do you have any relations with Islamic movements outside Lebanon?

[Harmush] We have relations with the various Islamic movements in the Arab and Islamic worlds. These relations are not limited to the Muslim Brotherhood. We are open to all and enjoy free decisionmaking and complete independence.

[Khashuqji] Syria has sensitivities in dealing with the brothers, and it also has an important role in Lebanon. So what is your relationship with it?

[Harmush] The relationship is excellent at present, and there are no problems between us. There was a misunderstanding during the war, but it has been overcome. [passage omitted]

Army Receives U.S. Military Equipment

NC0901174793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The Lebanese Army today received the second consignment of U.S. military equipment purchased for the Army according to the agreement concluded with the Lebanese state. The equipment includes military trucks, cranes, buoys ['awwamat bahariyah], and military hardware. The equipment was received at Beirut Port under the supervision of officers from the Army's General Administration Directorate and the Logistics Brigade.

Italian Foreign Minister Arrives for Talks

NC1201081793 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo, who arrived in Beirut at midnight last night, has called for finding a quick solution to the Palestinian deportees problem so it will not affect the peace talks.

Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, who returned from the Arab foreign ministers' conference at 2330 yesterday to receive Colombo, announced that talks with the Italian official will focus on political, economic, and cultural issues.

In Jordan, Colombo had warned of a new wave of terrorism in the Middle East after Israel deported more than 400 Palestinians.

Buwayz, Colombo Hold Talks

NC1201104093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1000 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] Italian Foreign Minister Emilio Colombo met with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at the Foreign Ministry this morning and discussed the current situation, the Palestinian deportees issue, and relations and cooperation between the two countries.

At 1100, the Italian minister met in Bkirki with Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Sfayr and discussed developments.

Buwayz will hold a luncheon for his Italian counterpart at the Bristol Hotel.

Al-'Allaf Rules Out Joint Arab-Israeli Declaration

JN1101151793 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0950 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Doha, 11 Jan (WAKH)—Muwaffaq al-'Allaf, head of the Syrian delegation to the peace talks, has ruled out the possibility of issuing a joint Arab-Israeli declaration of any sort unless Israel commits itself to a comprehensive peace, implements Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, and completely withdraws from the territory it occupied in 1967. This is what the Syrian document emphasized, he said.

Interviewed by the Qatari newspaper AL-SHARQ, published today, al-'Allaf described reports of an imminent solution or agreement between Israel and any Arab party as part of the psychological warfare waged by Israel to sow the seeds of suspicion and division among the Arab parties.

Asked about the impact of Israel's deportation of more than 400 Palestinians to southern Lebanon on the peace process, al-'Allaf said Israel's action is a serious violation of all human and international laws and principles; it is an aggression that should not be only condemned. The international community, particularly the United States, should force Israel to cancel its deportation decision. Its intransigence can only obstruct the peace process, he said.

Ultimatum To Implement Resolution 799 Urged

JN1101212793 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: After meeting with the UN secretary general's envoy, the Israeli prime minister refused to reconsider the case of the Palestinian deportees or respond to Security Council Resolution 799. Yitzhaq Rabin claimed that any future measures against Israel by the Security Council will reflect negatively on the Middle East peace process.

Those who listen to Rabin's threats will get the impression that the peace process has realized progress, or that it is heading toward substantial progress, though Shamir and Rabin's governments have deliberately placed all possible obstacles and impediments in front of the Washington talks. For more than a year, these talks have not made one step forward. The talks confronted the rejection of the two governments for implementing Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

It is useful to remember that the Israeli Labor Party, led by Rabin, won the recent elections on the platform of his statements and promises to advance the Middle East peace talks and hold serious negotiations with the Palestinians and all Arab parties. Rabin received the U.S. loan guarantees on the basis of the same platform. But when time came to translate the promises into actions, his reality emerged as another Shamir in his hostility to peace.

In fact, the deportation of hundreds of Palestinian citizens to the barren occupied area in southern Lebanon, and tightly besieging them is part of the Israeli effort to abort the peace process. In his rejection of Security Council Resolution 799 on repatriating the Palestinian deportees, Rabin does not deviate from all the Israeli rulers' refusals to implement the Security Council resolutions on a just solution to the conflict in the region. Israel's rulers used to deal with UN resolution lightly and scornfully. They do not pay attention to these resolutions that are separate from their interests and their expansionist designs. They accept the part in Resolution 242 that deals with realization of peace and the Arab recognition of their entity. On the other hand, they reject trading land for peace and insist on maintaining the occupation of the Golan, Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip. Even in the partition resolution, according to which a Jewish state was set up in Palestine, they only accept the part that provides legitimacy to their existence and reject the setting up of a Palestinian state as stipulated by the resolution.

Hence, Rabin's claims that any Security Council initiative to impose sanctions against Israel will be reflected on the peace process is only deception. The peace process is almost deadlocked and has not made a slightest progress. It will never make any progress as long as Israel maintains its position which rejects the resolutions of international legitimacy, and as long as the Security Council continues to play an audience to Israel's flagrant violations of international principles and charters.

Peace in the Middle East cannot be attained without recognizing the Palestinian people's rights and Israel's full withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories. No one has heard anything from Israel that indicates its readiness to recognize Palestinian rights or withdraw from the occupied territories. At the same time, the world is witnessing a series of dangerous terrorist and aggressive practices against the Palestinian people and broad settlement activities aimed at changing the features of the occupied territories. He who wants peace does not expel hundreds of Palestinians, throw them in the open, and besiege them so that they will die from hunger, cold, and thirst. He who wants peace does not allocate more funds of U.S. financial assistance for construction of settlements. He who wants peace does not launch aggression against Lebanon in a blatant manner, set up a proxy entity on its land, or daily raid and shell Lebanese villages and towns.

The UN envoy to Israel said he has no plans to visit Lebanon. This was a clear sign that the deportees' case is solely the responsibility of Israel, and that Lebanon is a victim of Israel's practices, the same as the Palestinians. In light of the Israeli rulers' intransigence and their refusal to abide by the latest Security Council resolution or any other previous resolutions, the Arab foreign ministers, who will discuss the developments in the situation today in Cairo, should put the Security Council before its responsibilities and should ask it to implement its latest resolution and draw up a speedy mechanism for

its implementation with a certain ultimatum. The Palestinian deportees are exposed to death, and the peace process is at the crossroads and is threatened with collapse. The policy of double standards is no more acceptable. Israel does not give any weight to international law. How can peace be realized in the Middle East in the absence of international law and the resolutions of international legitimacy, and with the prevailing Zionist law of the jungle?

Security Council Measures, Unified Arab Stand Urged

JN1201095393 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0550 GMT 12 Jan 93

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial headlined "A Unified Arab Position Is the Basis," AL-BA'TH says: The emergency meeting of Arab foreign minister comes after Israel's determination not to implement Security Council Resolution 799 stipulating the deportees' return to their homeland. This requires taking a firm Arab stand on this question by asking the Security Council to work toward implementing its resolution so as to bolster the concept of international legitimacy on all issues, so that the mission of this legitimacy is not confined to a certain issue only, especially since matters have recently taken this direction. In more frank terms, international legitimacy, as represented by the Security Council, has avoided issuing binding resolutions if they do not suit Israel.

AL-BA'TH adds: The continued Israeli refusal to implement Resolution 799 and the Security Council's not carrying out its supposed role toward the question of the deportees would certainly endanger the current peace talks to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict. This is because it is illogical that the Arabs should go to the peace talks while Israel has not implemented Resolution 799. In fact, Israel's refusal to implement this resolution would further convince the Arabs that Israel can never abide by any resolution that might be adopted in the interest of a just and comprehensive peace. This is especially true since in the past Israeli leaders have said that Israel was not concerned with implementing any resolution that conflicts with its aggressive policy.

AL-BA'TH concludes: The Arabs have the right—in fact it is their duty—to insist on the implementation of Resolution 799 immediately to end the tragedy of the deportees, as a basic condition to resume the peace talks. If Israel does not implement the resolution on the deportees, this means once again that it does not really want peace. Here comes the role of international legitimacy, which should take appropriate measures against Israel, since Israel does not recognize international legitimacy. If international legitimacy does not do this, then no doubt it will lose its credibility before the world nations, which will pose a new threat to global peace and security.

We should note here that what is more important than all of this is a unified Arab stand on all issues, since it is a sure guarantee that we will regain all our rights and secure a future for our nation.

Afghanistan

Rabbani, Others Reportedly Forced To Flee Kabul

BK1201052293 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 12 Jan 93 pp 1,4

[Report by Abdullah Jan in Peshawar]

[Text] With uncertain political trauma, chances of war and severe weather in Kabul most of the Afghan Mojahedin leaders including president Rabbani have either fled to Pakistan or other parts of Afghanistan.

Most of the Mojahedin leaders are present in Pakistan while other are still pouring in due to the uncertain situation in Afghan capital. The recent heavy shelling on Kabul forced over president Rabbani and his Defense Minister, Commander Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to leave the capital. Both of them fled away to Kherkha in the north of Kabul city. They are reported to be still out of Kabul.

Among the top-notch Mojahedin leaders, only Abdullah Zakri, chief of [word indistinct] Heb-e-Wahdat and Prof Sayyaf are said to be present in Kabul while his counterparts in other Afghan groups are out of the capital.

Newly arrived Afghan leaders to Pakistan include Vice President of Afghanistan Mowlawi Mir Hamza who is said to be a heart patient. Mowlawi was flown to Peshawar by an Afghan military aeroplane and according to the Mojahedin sources was shifted to hospital.

Mir Hamza was accompanied by the running spirit behind the Election Commission of Shoora Hal-o-Aqd and second-in-command of president Rabbani, Mowlawi Noorullah Emed. Besides, Haji Khatil, former Afghan Minister for Transport, Engineer Ayab, Jamiat-e-Eslami leader and some 15 members of the Hal-va-Aqd Shoora members reached Peshawar along with Mowlawi Hamza.

Mojahedin sources conficed that former Afghan Foreign Minister Salman Gillani along with his two deputies, Hamid Korzai and Jati Shams has also crossed over into Pakistan and living in Peshawar.

Among the top leadership of Mohahedin groups, only Hekmatyar of the powerful Hezb-e-Eslami, Prof Rabbani and Abdullah Zakri are inside Afghanistan while all the rest are out of the country. Hokmatyar is in his military base at Charasayab.

All the rest of the Mojahedin leaders have crossed over into Pakistan following the meeting of Rabbani-called controversial Ilal-o-Aqd [word indistinct] a while later declared its sponsor as president of Afghanistan for two years.

Former Afghan Vice President, Mowlawi Muhammad Nabi Muhammadi of Harket-a-Inqilab-e-Islami who was present in Peshawar since long and did not go to Kabul despite an invitation by other groups to take over as interim president.

Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, former Afghan president also refused to go to Afghan capital and has shifted to Islamabad. Pir Syed Ahmad Gillani of National Islamic Front of Afghanistan is also in Islamabad. Mowlawi Yunes Khalis of his own faction Hezb-e-Eslami returned from Kabul during the meeting of Hal-o-Aqd Shoora.

The political observers view this situation as very dangerous under the present scene in in Afghanistan as according to them the political process should not stop in the war-torn country. The observers are of the view that after war in a country, the political vaccum may lead to disastrous results.

The observers believe that delay in the announcement of his cabinet by the newly elected president Rabbani is yet another cause. They said that the political procure could only run smoothly if all the Mojahedin leaders are present in Kabul and they sit on a negotiating table for a settlement of the different among them.

Pakistani Decision on Afghan Parties Hailed

LD1101165593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Statement by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan; issued in Kabul on 11 January—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of Almighty God: The Islamic State of Afghanistan, attaching values to eternal Islamic brotherhood, close fraternal relations and mutual assistance, welcomes the immediate, wise, and good step of the Islamic Republic government of that country [Pakistan] concerning its decision taken a week ago concerning the termination of political and mass propaganda activities of Afghan parties and groups on Pakistani soil. In the view of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, this step by the Islamic government of Pakistan—in particular within a short time after the convention of the Resolution and Settlement Council [Showraye Hal va 'Aqd]—is not only indicative of Pakistan's interest in the very speedy cessation of hostilities throughout Afghanistan and in the return of peace, but is also considered as a beneficial step toward preparing the ground for the maintenance of stability and the provision of possibilities of urgent humanitarian assistance in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

The people of Afghanistan, who have looked with appreciation at the fraternal cooperation of their close neighboring country during the 14 years of jihad, strongly desire the expansion of relations with the Islamic states and other friendly states after the victory of the Islamic jihad. They greatly welcome the fruitful steps taken by Islamic neighbors toward the strengthening of the first Islamic rule [in Afghanistan], and in particular those by the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

For its part the Islamic State of Afghanistan [words indistinct] makes every effort toward establishing peace

in the country and is determined to remove all grounds and pretexts for the disruption of national peace and stability.

Bangladesh

Indian Envoy Gets 'Cold Shoulder' During Visit

BK1201094593 Hong Kong AFP in English 0824 GMT 12 Jan 93

[By Nadeem Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 12 (AFP)—Bangladesh gave the Indian premier's special emissary here the cold shoulder despite his reiteration of New Delhi's commitment to SAARC, as analysts viewed the trip as a bid to prevent regional isolation.

Bangladesh's state-run media virtually ignored the visit of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao's envoy, R.L. Bhatia, with the official BSS news agency only mentioning his talks with Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman and that he had left for Nepal.

It said nothing of his meeting with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

"The premier's meeting with Bhatia was brief and she had expressed her unhappiness about the event being cancelled indefinitely," an aide said, referring to the second consecutive postponement of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit due to have opened here Wednesday [13 January].

The aide said Zia was "pained" at the postponement and "naturally so" because she had looked forward to a successful meet, where she was scheduled to take over the leadership of the regional grouping from Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa.

Iftekhar Zaman of the Bangladesh Institute of International Strategic Studies, the government's foreign policy think-tank, said Tuesday the postponement of the summit had put India in dire straits.

The visit here and to other southern Asian capitals by the Indian premier's emissary is "an apparent bid to withstand fears of regional isolation," Zaman said.

Reports quoted Indian officials here as saying New Delhi had told Dhaka new dates for the summit could be fixed only after the region returned to "normalcy," as the current situation was not "conducive" for the meet.

Bangladeshi officials rejected this argument, saying security was a matter for the host country and if Dhaka was confident of the situation then the summit should have gone ahead.

"It seems India is trying to avoid the responsibility for the set-back and is putting the blame on other neighbours, where in fact there is no communal problem now," a foreign affairs analyst said.

The two-day summit was originally scheduled for December, but was postponed until Wednesday amid communal violence sparked by the December 6 razing of an ancient mosque in Ayodhya in India.

The SAARC charter bars the holding of the summit if any of the leaders of its seven member nations—Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives—are absent.

Sources said Rao, in a letter to Zia, expressed reservations about an upcoming debate on the Ayodhya incident by the Bangladesh parliament, which India regards as an interference in its internal affairs.

Rahman welcomed Bhatia on Sunday, but was absent when he left Dhaka for Kathmandu.

Officials said Rahman was absent from the airport because he was at the weekly cabinet meeting, but diplomats interpreted it as Dhaka's "demonstration of dissatisfaction."

Meanwhile in Kathmandu, the leading RISING SUN newspaper termed the postponement an "unfortunate development" and said it "may have the sad effect of retarding the movement."

The pro-government daily TELEGRAPH said Tuesday that India, by blaming its neighbours for the postponement of the summit, was "showing two faces" and had "gained distrust" of nearby nations.

"Let Delhi decide whether it wants cooperation of its neighbours or their distrust," a commentator wrote.

India

Congress-I Member Killed in Bombay Violence

BK1201041093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay, a Congress-I Corporator Miss Shantiben Baria has been killed even as fresh incidents of arson and looting were reported from northwest and central parts of the city last night. Reports of incidents have come in from Khar and Malar in northwest Bombay, and Dadar and Kalachowki in central Bombay. One battalion of CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] and two of the BSF [Border Security Force] have reached the city. Eleven companies of Rapid Action Force of the CRPF have also been rushed to organize the security forces. Curfew has been relaxed for four hours from 0600 hours in 18 police circles. In Nehrunagar and Kherwari there will be no curfew today. The defense minister, Mr. Sharad Pawar, has said that the army and paramilitary forces would remain in Bombay as long as the state government desires. Meanwhile, the noted industrialist, Mr. J.R.D. Tata, the noted constitutional expert, Mr. N. Palkiwalla, and other eminent citizens of Bombay have

urged the center to declare partial emergency under Article 352 of the constitution in Bombay and hand over the city to the army.

Parties Ask President To Dismiss State Governments

BK1201044693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] A delegation of the left parties and the Janata Dal met the president, Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, in New Delhi yesterday evening and sought the dismissal of Gujarat and Maharashtra governments for their failure to curb violence. The Janata Dal leader, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan, told our correspondent that the delegation conveyed to the president its grave concern over the situation. The delegation included Mr. Jaipal Reddy and Mr. Sharad Yadav - both Janata Dal; Mr. Somnath Chatterjee - CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist]; and Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Mr. M. Farooqi of the CPI [Communist Party of India].

Situation in Bombay, Gujarat 'Improving'

BK1201092893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] In Bombay the situation is gradually improving with increasing attendance in offices and public transport plying the road. Curfew was relaxed for four hours in eight police circles this morning. No untoward incident was reported during the relaxation period. Forty-three columns of the army, two companies of the BSF [Border Security Force], and a searching squad of the CRPF [Central Reserve Police Force] have been deployed in different areas. The police sources have confirmed the arrival of Rapid Action Force. Barring a few minor incidents of arson and stray clashes, the situation in the city and the suburbs is reported to be tense but under control. A total of 21 deaths were reported overnight, of which 15 people were killed in stabbing, three in police firing, and three in arson. Curfew was reimposed for the day in 18 police circles, including Dhongri, Yogeshwari, Bhuinbara, Kalachowki, Baitula, Dhandu, and Ghatkopar, Ratnagar, Bikrauli, Devanar, Nirbal Nagar, and Bindoshi.

In Gujarat, the situation in Ahmedabad and Jhalod is reported to be under control. According to police sources in Ahmedabad, no untoward incident has been reported from anywhere so far. Thirteen army columns have been deployed in the troubled town and Ahmedabad City. As reported earlier, the state government has ordered the army to open fire, if necessary, to contain violence in Ahmedabad. The army has been actively involved with the police in enforcing curfew orders and undertaking combing operations. The chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, discussed the law and order situation with the GOC [general officer commanding]-in-chief of the Western Command, Lieutenant General A.S. Kilkat, at Gandhinagar this afternoon. Mr. Patel said that there is a qualitative improvement in the situation in Ahmedabad and normalcy will be restored very soon. The GOC-in-chief assured the chief minister that they have enough force of the army to contain the task assigned to them.

Bombay Riots 'Serious Setback' to Economic Reforms

BK1201110993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1049 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Report by M.R. Narayan Swamy]

[Text] Bombay, Jan 12 (AFP)—Hindu-Muslim riots sweeping Bombay have dealt a serious setback to India's attempts to woo foreign capital as part of its economic liberalisation drive, industrialists here said Tuesday [12 January].

Businessmen interviewed in this formerly bustling financial capital blamed the government for letting the situation explode and warned that the bloodletting will force investors to rethink coming to India.

"We cannot expect foreign investment now," said Pratap Bhogilal, a prominent industrialist and a former president of the Chamber of Indian Merchants. "Thrre are better avenues for them."

"Who will come to India?" asked N.K. Nayar, president of an Indo-European Community Chamber of Commerce. "Foreign businessmen want to know if India has stability."

Scores of foreign companies made pledges last year to funnel more than one billion dollars into India in the form of joint ventures and collaborations, but doubts have arisen over whether many projects will eventuate.

Nayar said losses suffered by businesses during the week of rioting here, which showed no signs of abating Tuesday and has left at least 170 people dead, totalled millions of dollars. "No one can make a precise guess."

Bombay, India's commercial nerve centre, movie-making capital and a busiest port, has been paralysed since the strife erupted last Tuesday. Banks and offices have been grossly under-staffed while shops and businesses in most areas have been shut. The stock and commodities markets have been closed and exchange officials are unsure when they will reopen.

At Bombay port, dock workers, many of whom are Muslims, have been the targets of Hindu mobs and hundreds have fled with their families.

Bombay handles business and trade worth an estimated 1.6 billion dollars each day. It is also the headquarters of India's chemical, pharmaceutical and textile industries. Several small factories have been looted or torched by rampaging mobs. Although major industrial establishments have so far escaped damage, their workers—

mostly residents of shanty-towns and lower middle class suburbs—have not been as lucky.

Thousands have been locked inside their homes in curfew-bound districts for days. "There are factories where there is no attendance," said Bhogilal. "The losses will be in the millions of rupees." Added S.P. Godrej, chariman of the Godrej group of companies: "Goods cannot go. There is stagnation and there is a pall of fear."

Most industrialists denounced the government of Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, for failing to control the riots. In a statement Monday, leading tycoon J.D. Tata and 77 other prominent citizens urged the government to declare a partial state of emergency and to hand the city over to the army.

"The situation is totally out of hand in Bombay. Criminals, mobsters and beasts in the form of men have taken over," they said. "Bombay has witnessed scenes of violence and lawlessness to which there has been no parallel during the 300-year-old history of the city."

"India's image has certainly suffered," said M.D. Kini, deputy secretary of the Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry. But Kini felt that foreign investors and multi-nationals planning to come to India may be as keen as ever once the situation returns to normal. "This is what happened in China after the Tiananmen tragedy," he said. "It did affect investment for a while. Later on things improved. It will be the same here."

Kini said the real issue was the federal government's commitment to economic reforms, which have included lifting foreign exchange controls and allowing foreign ventures to hold 51 percent stakes. "There is a sort of consensus on that. So that will continue and that is important," he said.

Godrej added: "We expect our foreign overseas friends to understand that things will return to normal. After all India has had many problems in the past.

Army Allowed To Open Fire To Contain Violence

BK1201034493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Gujarat government has ordered the army to open fire, if necessary, to control the six-day old violence in Ahmedabad. Three more army columns have been deployed in sensitive areas of the city. The state home minister, Mr. C.D. Patel, said in a statement last night that the army will be actively involved with police in enforcing curfew orders and undertaking combing operations. Earlier, Mr. Patel reviewed the law and order situation in the city with top police officials. Meanwhile, the situation in Ahmedabad is officially stated to be under control. An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Jalor town of Panch Mahal District following incidents of violence. Curfew is also continuing in Bharuch since yesterday. The Gujarat chief minister, Mr. Chimanbhai Patel, has appealed to the people to maintain peace.

Ministers Meet Area Leaders on SAARC Issue

BK1101161893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] India has assured its full cooperation to Bangladesh to bring the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] movement to a meaningful reality. This was conveyed to the Bangladeshi prime minister, Begum Khaleda Zia, by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, during his meeting with her in Dhaka this morning. Mr. Bhatia also handed over a letter from the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha Rao, explaining the circumstances leading to Mr. Rao's calling off his visit to Dhaka last week. Mr. Bhatia also made it clear that the postponement of the SAARC summit twice due to Mr. Rao's inability to attend it should not be construed as a dilution of India's commitment to SAARC principles.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Eduardo Faleiro, called on the Sri Lankan president, Mr. Ranasinghe Premadasa, in Colombo today. Mr. Faleiro explained to Mr. Premadasa India's view regarding its inability to attend the SAARC summit which was scheduled to be held in Dhaka this week.

By-Elections Postponed by 'Disturbed' Conditions

BK1101090893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The by-elections to three Lok Sabha and nine assembly constituencies have been postponed. According to the Election Commission release, the decision was taken after considering the request from the Union Home Ministry to postpone these elections in view of the disturbed situation in some parts of the country. The Home Ministry in its letter to the commission had expressed apprehension that canvassing, speeches, and other electioneering processes might result in aggravating the communal situation. The constituencies are Ottapalam in Karala, Jullundhur in Punjab and Palani in Tamil Nadu for Lok Sabha. The assembly constituencies are Raichota in Andhra Pradesh, Gaya in Bihar, Rapar, Gadhada and Kundla in Gujarat, Narwana in Haryana, Guhagar, Kinwat and North Sholapur in Maharashtra.

The commission in its earlier order had postponed by-elections to four assembly constituencies of Jalore and Jambusar in Gujarat and Chinchpokli and Parel in Maharashtra for similar reasons.

The general elections to the assemblies of Meghalaya, Nagaland and Tripura will, however, be held as scheduled on the 15th of next month. The terms of assemblies of Meghalaya and Tripura end in February, while the state of Nagaland is under the president's rule.

Call for Muslims To Miss Republic Day Condemned

BK1101160193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] The government has sought the help of Muslim leaders for creating congenial atmosphere and has expressed the hope that All India Babri Masjid [Mosque] Action Committee [AIBMAC] will give up its call for the boycott of the Republic Day. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, said in New Delhi today that the Muslim leaders should not adopt this kind of an attitude which will create problems for the country as a whole. Mr. Chavan said that the Republic Day is a solemn occasion which should be celebrated by all sections of the people.

In a statement, several prominent stage, film and sport personalities, including Shabana Azami and Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi, said that by giving such a call the AIBMAC was playing into the hands of the communalists. The All India Muslim Personal Law Board has disapproved the so-called call for the boycott of Republic Day celebrations. At a news conference in New Delhi today, a member of the board, Maulana Mujahidul Islam Hashemi, said the board disassociates itself from it. The All India Minorities Front has described the call as most unfortunate and antinational. In a statement, the president of the front, Mr. S.M. Asif, condemned the leaders who gave the call. Describing the call as ill-conceived, the Janata Dal national secretary, Mr. Wasim Ahmed, said it will only strengthen the communal and fascist forces. The former union home minister, Mufti Muhammad Sayeed, has opposed the call and said those who believe in the Constitution and rule of law will not resort to such an action.

Muslim League Criticizes Boycott

BK1201044093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The Indian Muslim League president, Mr. Ibrahim Suliaman Seth, said that the IUML [Indian Union Muslim League] has not endorsed the decision taken by the All India Babri Masjid [Mosque] Action Committee [AIBMAC] for boycotting the Republic Day celebrations. In a statement, issued in Kochi yesterday Mr. Seth criticized the boycott call given by the AIBMAC.

BJP Reiterates Demand for Mid-Term Elections

BK1201094693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has reiterated its demand for an immediate mid-term poll, claiming that the government at the Center has lost its mandate. The BJP president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi; and the party leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, said the government may not agree with the demand because of its numerical strength in parliament, but a fresh mandate is a must as the country is facing a new situation. The two leaders were addressing their first news conference in New Delhi after their release from Matatila in Uttar Pradesh.

Describing the pulling down of the structure at Ayodhya on the 6th of last month as unfortunate, Mr. Advani, however, said there is nothing to be ashamed of. He said the BJP was taken aback that something which was not desired by the party had happened in Ayodhya and the pulling down of the structure was not a heroic deed. Mr. Advani made it clear that [mosques situated in] Mathura and Varanasi are not on the party's agenda and demanded early elections in the four former BJP-ruled states and lifting of ban on the VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council], RSS [Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh, National Volunteer Corps], and Bajrang Dal [militant Hindu organization].

In reply to a question, he said the Janata Dal leader, Mr. George Fernandes, talked to him last night regarding violence in Bombay and said the BJP desires that all political parties should put their heads together to restore peace in Ahmedabad and Bombay. He asked the government to deal firmly with the rioters irrespective of the community they belong to.

Pakistan Conducting 'All-Out Diplomatic War'

BK0901094393 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 1 Jan 93 p 8

[Editorial: "Motivated outcry"]

[Text] Indo-Pakistan ties are clearly heading for a rapid deterioration. This is the implication of the Pakistan Government's highly provocative statement on the Ayodhya controversy. When that country's National Assembly passed a resolution on this issue on December 24, New Delhi had protested against such interference in India's internal affairs. The tone and content of the latest statement of the Pakistan External Affairs Ministry are far more aggressive. Islamabad has had the temerity to take objection to the permission given for the "darshan" [viewing] of Ram Lalla idols at the disputed site as though Uttar Pradesh were a province of Pakistan. This activity, says Pakistan, is "tantamount to legitimising the demolition of the masjid [mosque] and will not be acceptable." It means that what India does in this regard must be "acceptable" to Pakistan and, of course, the Ummah as a whole, too. This is a particularly disgraceful instance of wanton infringement of diplomatic etiquette. And this is done in the name of religion.

A religious issue ought actually to be dealt with as tactfully as possible. A decent approach of this kind seems to be alien to Pakistani mores. After all, the country was born of religious fanaticism. Even if Pakistani interest in the security and religious freedom of Muslims in India is to be regarded as natural, the crude manner in which it is displaying such sympathy for them is apt to embarrass them greatly. Many of them may well pray to Allah to save them from a perilous solidarity of this kind. Perilous, because even a child knows that a highly emotive issue like the preservation of the sanctity

of places of worship is best resolved through patient efforts at mutual understanding. In the case in question, this precisely is the Indian Government's policy. There is every reason to think that Islamabad is determined to sabotage the current attempts in India to defuse the tension over Ayodhya as the first essential step towards as rational a way out of the impasse as possible in the circumstances. Pakistan has reason to hope that the Islamic hotheads in India will spare no efforts to force the moderate sections of the Indian Muslims into silence.

A dark design of this kind will be consistent with Pakistan's basic policy of seizing every opportunity to fuel confrontation with India. Terrorism in Kashmir and Punjab has not yielded the dividends Pakistan desired. What Pakistani rulers dread most is to be without a handle to stoke the fires of hatred against India. They seem to be determined, therefore, to make the most of the opportunity afforded by Ayodhya. It looks as if this is the single issue to which the Pakistani foreign policy is feverishly being geared. Islamabad's sudden demand two days ago that India should drastically reduce the staff in its Consulate in Karachi makes sense as a part, however small, of a strategy of an all-out diplomatic war on India.

Pakistan Embassy in Delhi Called 'Spy Nest'

BK1101062093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Commentary by Samir Pal of the HINDUSTAN TIMES]

[Text] India's indication to Pakistan yesterday to cut back on its present complement of 150 diplomats and officials at the High Commission in New Delhi to a number not to exceed 110 comes as a measured response to a series of pinpricks and diplomatic pressures orchestrated to a crescendo since the December 6 act of vandals in demolishing the Babri mosque in Ayodhya. It is distinctly a reciprocal action to Islamabad's decision, conveyed on 29 December that India must withdraw within a month 42 out of 62 diplomatic and other personnel at the Consulate General in Karachi.

Islamabad's turned a deaf ear to New Delhi's plea that this was unacceptable, for it will mean avoidable emotional [word indistinct] for a large number of expatriates in Sindh, whose relatives in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar long to see them and renew family ties. There are an estimated 30,000 nationals in India visiting their relatives or sustaining their cultural links with this part of the subcontinent. The Indian Consulate General in Karachi has been issuing about 700 visas a day. Consequent upon the stipulated drastic reduction of personnel, the Indian Consulate General will be hard-pressed in processing the spate of visa applications.

The post-1947 generation in Pakistan has been nurtured in an ambiance of external threat from India. The relatively free flow of friends and relatives on the occasion of marriages and deaths provided an opportunity for human contact. That too, is now being sought to be curbed. A large number of visa applicants in Karachi have their ancestral homes in Uttar Pradesh. Pakistan's efforts now appears to be to attempt limiting exposure to the freer Indian democratic scenario and social laws.

The worsening state of the current diplomatic ties between India and Pakistan is perceptible in the fact that when Pakistan's Acting High Commissioner, Mr. Shahid Malik, was summoned to the Foreign Office yesterday for the first time after years of ambivalence, Pakistan was also told in no uncertain terms that New Delhi had decided not to hand over the founder of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah's, mansion on Mount Pleasant Road on Malabar Hill in Bombay for the use of Pakistan's Consulate General or as an official residence.

The final signal, if any was needed about the significant low that bilateral relations had fallen to, was Mr. Shahid Malik been told authoritatively that henceforth, Islamabad will not be allowed to set up temporary visa offices at Lucknow, Patna, and Hyderabad. Pakistan must process all visa applications through its High Commission in New Delhi and Consulate General in Bombay. A widely prevalent belief in official circles appears to be that Pakistan's colossal over-staffed chancery in New Delhi, is a convenient spy nest, while the temporary visa offices are set up to provide them with operating basis to fish in troubled waters.

Naval Exercises With Oman Begin 12 January

BK1101161093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] India and Oman begin their two-day naval exercise off the coast of the sultanate tomorrow. This is the first time that the Indian Navy will be conducting naval exercise with the Navy of a gulf country. Three ships of the Western Fleet of the Indian Navy will take part in the exercise with the Royal Navy and the coastal units of the Oman police. These exercises are aimed to strengthen cooperation between the two navies.

OIC Warned Against Pakistan Propaganda

BK1101153193 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] India has cautioned the bureau of the Organization of Islamic Countries [OIC] not to fall prey to Pakistani propaganda against India on the Ayodhya issue. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India has told the bureau members that Pakistan's provocative action creates more tension in the region. The spokesman said that many members of the bureau have agreed with India on the need for careful handling of such sensitive issues.

The nine-member bureau of OIC is meeting in the Senegalese capital Dakar from today.

Planning Commission on Economic Effect of Ayodhya

BK1001125893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The Planning Commission says there is no need to revise the macro-economic targets of the eighth plan. It is of the view that the aftermath of the Ayodhya developments will have no adverse effects on the economy. The commission has, however, cautioned the state against any slippage in additional resource mobilization and underlined the need to cut down wasteful expenditure. A spokesman of the planning commission told AIR [All India Radio] correspondent that a significant hike has been made in the allocation for agriculture, rural development and education in the 1993-94 annual plan. Marginally higher outlays have also been provided for other central ministries and this will be reflected in the forthcoming union budget.

Defense Ministry's Performance in 1992 Criticized

BK0901090993 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 27 Dec 92 p 10

[Report by Pravin Sawhney: "India fails to keep pace with global events"]

[Text] New Delhi—While the defence services kept up their operational preparedness in 1992, the ministry largely failed to respond to the fast moving kaleidoscope of world events. This has resulted in fearful slips in the strategic sustenance systems, adversely affecting all aspects of defence production, support, spares and reserves procurement and exports.

Most pathetic has been the ministry's reaction to the changing situation in the former Soviet Union. In March, the then Russian Secretary of State, Mr Gennady Burbulis during his Delhi visit had offered at low prices a whole range of defence joint-ventures and technical cooperation, but the Government was interested only in overcoming immediate defence spares problem.

It took two visits by the Defence Minister to Russia, one to Ukraine and a visit each by his deputy minister, defence secretary and foreign secretary to Moscow to apprehend that the most required spares were either no longer being manufactured or that Kremlin had little control over its manufacturing units.

To procure defence support while the Government in traditional style talked of goodwill and friendship, Moscow talked commerce, as they had already tasted hard currency in its independent defence units.

While immediate operational requirement spares were procured by the ministry throughout the year by spending over $600 million forex [foreign exchange], it was in September that the Defence Minister first conceded to journalists at Tiruchirapalli that Russia was unable to provide most required spares.

Russia had instead offered technical assistance for indigenous production for which the defence minister was belatedly doing the rounds of ordnance factories to evaluate their potential for the same.

This has resulted in dangerous shortage of war reserves with the army and air force. The navy for spares is still unaffected, as it works on a five year spares cycle. While navy is safe till 1994 in so far as spares are concerned, it also has been adversely affected like the other two services, for lack of defence support. All its indigenous production schedules will now face massive time slippages.

The Defence minister's China visit gave the impression of a meeting between unequals. While it is fine to go along with the Chinese expressed desire to have peace on all borders to pursue unhindered its modernisation programmes, our requirement is more than that. We should want to alongside begin talks for border resolution, rather than wait for China to be through with its modernisation, when it is powerful to blatantly dictate its terms.

India's participation at the Farnborough air show in London, Asian aerospace exhibition in Singapore and defence services Asia exhibition in Malaysia for securing export orders is meaningless till a vibrant defence industrial base is created.

The initial defence export target laid by the ministry towards the beginning of the year was Rs [rupees] 1000 crore. A massive climbdown statement was later made by him in the Parliament putting the yearly exports target at Rs 500 crore. All that is likely to be achieved in 1992-93 (by the Government s own admission) is Rs 120 crore as against Rs 101 crore export last year.

Similar unrealistic targets have been declared regarding the integration of Prithvi missile in the army and air force by 1993. And the main battle tank Arjun is scheduled to be inducted into the army also by 1993, presuming that the first systems integrated trials scheduled for January will fructify.

A similar situation has existed in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which, under its former chief, Dr V.S.Arunachalam, played more politics than delivering substance to three services.

With Dr Kalam as the DRDO chief, hope has revived. Highly placed sources now talk of an earlier unheard, cooperative interaction between the DRDO and services. The missiles programmes as also other DRDO projects are now expected to mature in good time. And Dr Kalam, who is yet to formally talk to the press is expected to be taken seriousy when he declares his time-frames for various projects.

But seriousness is not a strong point of the minister. While this year alone there have been 30 MiG-21 aircraft crashes, the ministry is undecided about the advanced jet

trainer already short listed. The fourth largest army in the world is without a self-propelled gun.

The towed Bofors guns were purchased without adequate spares and ammunition. And the navy is undecided about its aircraft carrier Vikrant's replacement. And myriad projects of operational importance have suffered because the services have no control over their own budget and the ministry is tardy in decision making.

However, the services top brass are too keen to take credit for individual heroism have contributed very little toward institutioning inter-services cooperation. The still-born army aviation corps is one such fruit of inter-services rivalry. And the long felt need for a permanent chairman-cum-joint chief of staff faces more resistnace from within the services than from ther ministry.

Future of Economic Reforms Called 'Blurred'

BK1001124593 Bombay NAVBHARAT TIMES in Hindi 26 Dec 92 p 6

[Editorial: "Future of Economic Reforms"]

[Text] The way the 6 December Ayodhya incident has changed India's political panorama, it is but natural that supporters of economic reforms are getting concerned. The meeting of some Western diplomats with Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] leaders is, perhaps, a result of this concern. The government started introducing economic reforms some 18 months back. It had then claimed that the objective of restructuring the economy would be achieved within three years. The political scene was then also in favor of the economic reforms. The scene, however, now seems to have changed. The Congress-I now wants to seek Left parties' support to inflict political defeat on the BJP. But the Left parties in return would like to see a halt in the economic reform program, and the Center is not likely to oblige them.

What the BJP told the Western diplomats, only they know; but the party repeatedly made it clear during its period of pleasant relations with the ruling party that the BJP's support for the new economic policy would depend on whether the reforms succeed. Now, when the BJP appears to be on a different political axis, assuming that it will not take political advantage of the current failure of the economic policy would be silly. If Congress-I and Left parties launch a joint campaign against the BJP, though the likelihood of this has diminished, the BJP would counter with its own campaign of weighing both the Congress-I and Left parties on the same scale on economic issues. Janata Dal leader V.P. Singh is fully aware of this and that is why he is not ready to enter into any type of dialogue with the Congress-I.

The central government cannot take the risk of leaving the economic reforms in the lurch. It is seeking the international community's support for the success of these programs. If the central government seems to be coming under the Left parties' influence, the international climate could become adverse. That is why the international community is watching the Bharatiya Janata Party. The Western diplomats are now drawn toward the BJP leaders like Atal Behari Vajpayee to know the party's views regarding the economic reform program. The Congress-I enjoys a very thin majority in the Lok Sabha due to which the central government will not only come under pressure from the Anna-Dravida Munnetra Kazagham and Janata Dal-Ajit Singh groups, but small factions within the Congress-I will also create many types of crises for it. Hence for the time being, the future of the economic reforms appears to be somewhat blurred.

Changes in Foreign Exchange Act Welcomed

BK1101121393 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Commentary by Snehlata Bhatia of THE ECONOMIC TIMES]

[Text] The Foreign Exchange Regulation Act—FERA—ordinance promulgated of late is one step forward in making India an attractive ground for foreign investors. Several of the restricted sections in the FERA act of 1973 have been deleted. Simultaneously, new sections have been introduced to facilitate operations of FERA companies. The impact of FERA amendments can be split into two sections. One, the measures announced to boost overseas projects, and two, the [word indistinct] to FERA companies which would ultimately bring in fresh foreign capital to India. This also gives freedom to the FERA companies so far operating under highly restrictive regime. By way of an important relaxation for exporters, a new section IBA [expansion unknown] has been introduced permitting the taking out of goods on rent or lease, hire or any other arrangement which does not amount to disposal of such goods. This will facilitate completion of overseas projects rather smoothly. In the past, project exporters faced a serious procedural problems of acquiring necessary equipment and machinery for the project construction. It is true that permission was finally given, but after a lot of hassle and time loss. Deletion of Section 27 restricting overseas joint ventures and participation of resident Indians in overseas projects will give a new lease on life to joint ventures abroad. Several leading Indian companies, both in the private and public sector, received offers for joint ventures, but they remained on paper only because of FERA restrictions.

Several industrial studies have shown that India can make a kill[ing] through joint ventures in project exports alone. The amendments also allow Indian entrepreneurs to take up the directorship of foreign firms without FERA approval. They can own property outside India. They will, however, need a general clearance from Reserve Bank of India. Besides, FERA companies holding equity shares more than 40 percent have been allowed to open branch office or liaison office. They can even acquire whole or part of any undertaking in India.

carry on trade, commerce and industry, except in agriculture and plantation activities. Opening up of branch offices will need incentives on tax front. The provision to allow takeovers by FERA companies is literally a leap forward in the government's thinking process. They have overcome the fear of the transnationals swallowing the Indian companies. This will also take India closer to being a global player.

The decision to allow FERA companies to borrow and raise deposits is another welcome move. These companies can now employ technical or management adviser [words indistinct] for use of trademarks to which they are entitled. These provisions are taken for granted everywhere in the world. The ordinance has met the demand of the foreign investor, especially from Japan, to have a sustainable legal framework till the recent FERA changes announced through a series of notifications released by the Reserve Bank of India. This will go a long way in building confidence amongst the investors about India's intentions to liberalize the economy.

Other major amendments aim to doing away with some of the discretionary powers enjoyed by the government. For instance, under Section 21 it could at any given time ask the FERA companies to make payments to certain account. This section now stands deleted. Similarly, Section 23 which empowered the government to acquire foreign securities of the FERA companies to improve foreign exchange holdings has been deleted. This is expected to remove apprehensions and fears of the foreign investors.

Restrictions on transfer of shares by a non-resident Indian to another non-resident have been removed. Bonds and debentures have been included under this provision. This is expected to facilitate investment. The government has exempted import of gold and silver from FERA. These commodities will be governed under the exim [export-import] policy. The government has also given a control over the use of imported gold and silver. This had become redundant under the liberalized gold policy. All these changes are a step in the right direction.

Drug Smuggling Through Pakistan Said To Increase

BK1101141693 Delhi INDIAN EXPRESS in English 30 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Chandigarh—The smuggling of narcotics in India from across the border has increased during the past one year. This follows a sharp decline in the margin of profit on gold, in view of the Central Government's decision to allow every person to bring with him five kg of the yellow metal from abroad, after paying a customs duty on it at the rate of Rs [rupees] 250 per 10 gram.

Official sources in the Collectorate of Customs and Central Excise told ENS [Express News Service] the smuggling is likely,to increase further during the forthcoming year in view of the reports about the cultivation of opium on a large scale in the neighbouring countries, like Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Though these reports are being confirmed from various other quarters also, yet the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has also gathered information about the installation of drug manufacturing units in the border areas of Pakistan across the Ferozepur sector.

The drug mafia, which has been inactive since 1988 following the Central Government's decision to initiate stringent measures against narcotics smugglers, is regrouping again to revive their lost contacts. "However, we are seized of the matter and are also fully prepared to meet the challenge," they say.

Pointing out that narcotics smuggling registered a steady decline after 1988 as gold became an attraction for the trans-border smugglers, sources said that the trend has started showing a change during the past eight months.

Inflation Rate Declines to 7.84 Pecent

BK1001101093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The inflation rate on a point-to-point basis slid below the 8 percent level and stood at 7.84 percent, a new low for 15 weeks. The official wholesale price index for the week ending December 26th, the last for the year 1992, declined to 231 from the previous week's 231.1. A substantial fall in the index for nonfood articles and a moderate decline in the index of food products caused the fall in the index for all commodities.

Iran

U.S. Activity, Interest in Persian Gulf Analyzed

NC0901141593 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 28 Dec 92 pp 1, 20

[Editorial by Mohammad Sarafraz: "A Strategic Mistake!"]

[Text] Following a brief interval, the United States has once again started to think of harnessing the Islamic Revolution within the geographic borders of the Islamic Republic of Iran, a policy it began 12 years ago with Saddam as its torchbearer and with the help of all the small and big powers of the East and West. It did not, however, succeed!

Today, from North Africa to Central Asia, the wave of Islam is on the move. Its most important message is the negation of domination by and dependence on despotic powers.

1. From the global perspective, the United States intends to portray Islamic ideology as similar to Marxism! Using the label of "fundamentalism," it intends to form a strong bloc vis-a-vis Islamic ideology and to increase pressures to such a degree that the Metropolis [preceding word in English] (read Mecca) will disintegrate like the

Soviet Union did! It is neglecting the fact that Islam is deeply rooted in the temperament of human beings; godless Marxism was not. It is neglecting the difference between what communism had to offer with the force of the bayonet and what Islam has to offer with its agreeable message of negating domination. It is neglecting the difference between the Islamic nuclear bomb and the nuclear bomb of the East Bloc. The nuclear bomb they say the Islamic Republic is in the process of building is nothing more than the unity of Islamic nations under oppression and is a weapon that neither the SALT I or SALT II treaties can harness; nothing can be done to prevent it from exploding.

If the United States has been able to crush the Islamic Party in Somalia on the pretext of fighting hunger and to extinguish the flame of Islam in the Horn of Africa, it might also attempt a limited attack on Abu Musa on the pretext of ending the occupation of Arab territory! In the same way that each and every "insecurity" in the world has been created with the help of the "Security" Council, this time, too, the United Nations will enter the scene to prepare its "supernumeraries." It should be noted, however, that Somalia's Islamic Party has said that it would repeat the experience of Lebanon for the Americans. If the U.S. Marines face what they did in Lebanon, they will not think of being aggressive in other parts of the world for some time to come.

2. From the regional perspective, U.S. propaganda efforts are aimed at placing the Islamic Republic of Iran under the same conditions it was in during Iraq's attack on Kuwait! Exaggerated figures of arms purchases and rumors of having gained access to the nuclear weapon are being published within this context. However, because the regional situation is moving in exactly the opposite direction of such propaganda, the possibility that this plan will succeed is almost nil.

In other words, if an aggression is attempted against the Iranian islands in the Persian Gulf, we will be in a defensive position. Our situation is not at all similar to the situation during Iraq's attack on Kuwait. During its eight years of sacred defense, our nation stood up against the entire world, not surrendering even one inch of our Islamic homeland's territory to the enemy.

3. The objective of the United States and the West is to place into motion a third Persian Gulf crisis in a controlled way. In meetings with the Iranian side, British diplomats say that they support a bilateral solution to the Abu Musa crisis. This is only an effort not to burn all their bridges until the right time comes for them to be used.

The heads of the [Gulf] Cooperation Council [GCC] have asked Iran "to end the occupation of the two islands of Greater and Lesser Tunb that belong to the United Arab Emirates [UAE]"! and have said that "on the basis of collective security, the GCC supports all peaceful measures the UAE will take to reestablish its sovereignty over its three islands on the basis of international law."

Of course before its [current] session, this council was able to end a border dispute (between Qatar and Saudi Arabia) by creating another dispute (between Iran and the UAE).

In this connection, some points are noteworthy:

First, it should be shown that this fabricated crisis will not progress according to the plans of the West and the Arabs until they want to turn it into a dispute.

Second, we should abstain from mediation by a country like Syria, which has always sought to benefit from conflicts in the Persian Gulf. In the war with Iraq, Iran extended oil assistance to Syria and in the recent crisis, the southern Persian Gulf countries are extended financial assistance. Have we reaped any benefits from this?

Third, the Israeli regime has declared the Islamic Republic of Iran as its number one enemy. (This regime has tried to imply the existence of some type of ties in a bid to distort the face of the Islamic system!) The rest of the Arab countries will use their relations with the Zionists as a gauge to regulate their hostilities toward Iran.

The fact that the West has placed the banner of opposition with the Islamic Revolution in the hands of Israel will not only not result in any benefits for them [Arab countries], but will also reveal the pseudo-Islamic face of the dependent shaykhs in their opposition with Islam.

Clinton, U.S. Role in New World Order Discussed

NC0901091693 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] George Bush is preparing to leave the White House and to be replaced by Bill Clinton; however, he still declares the need for U.S. world leadership in the new order for world peace and tranquility. Experts believe that this idea was one of the elements that led to George Bush's defeat in the presidential elections.

In a recent West Point speech, which has been described as his political will, Bush discussed the dangers in the post-Cold War era and described the United States as the sole world superpower, adding that leading the world toward peace and tranquility is the responsibility of the United States. Bush has said this before; that is, that with the defeat of communism, history has placed the responsibility of safeguarding peace on the shoulders of the United States—the victor of the Cold War. And George Bush considers the use of military force to be sometimes

necessary to carry out this responsibility. Examples of this approach were seen in Panama, the Persian Gulf, and Somalia.

As to when the use of force and military strength is necessary and what the specific criteria of the conditions that call for resorting to these means, Bush states that it is impossible to put forth specific criteria, saying that that would reduce the dynamism of U.S. diplomacy.

As can be seen, what George Bush considers U.S. interests to be the criteria for the use of force. These interests are, of course, determined by whichever president is in power and in accordance with the exigencies of time. Emphasizing world peace and tranquility is nothing but a mask for U.S. expansionist policies.

As to whether Bill Clinton will pursue George Bush in foreign policy and will try to fulfill the idea of U.S. world leadership is a question on which many political circles focus their attention. The answer to this question will entail choosing one of the two courses that has opened up for U.S. leaders after the Cold War. With the conclusion of the Cold War, controversies have sprung up between supporters of two points of view on U.S. foreign policy. One focuses attention on domestic problems and criticizes increasing U.S. foreign commitments; the other wants to acquire world leadership regardless of the domestic consequences.

During the U.S. presidential elections, George Bush represented the second point of view; Clinton represented the first. Clinton's election showed U.S. public support for dealing with U.S. domestic problems and difficulties instead of resorting to expansionism abroad.

At any rate, as to whether Clinton will fulfill his presidential slogans or will contentedly entertain the thought of world leadership like George Bush remains yet to be seen. In view of the political decisionmaking mechanism in the United States and the principle of ensuring U.S. interests—a principle that affects all presidents irrespective of their personal and party points of view—it seems that Clinton has no alternative but to move toward world affairs. Thus, the U.S. President-elect will try to find a course that will offer the necessary flexibility for reconciliation between the two conflicting views in the United States.

Striving to pursue U.S. objectives within the framework of international organizations as well as acquiring the assistance of big powers is a path that can help Clinton achieve his goals. This path will both grant apparent legitimacy to U.S. expansionist objectives and will relieve the United States of the heavy burden of heavy expenditures that might lead to domestic problems.

These are all considered threats to the independence of international organizations and the national sovereignty of countries and will give rise to resistance by a large group of countries.

Commentary Assesses Bush Presidency

LD1101222793 Tehran IRNA in English 2119 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—George Bush is to hand over the American presidency to Bill Clinton in less than two weeks time while the home situation, economically, politically and socially, is ailing and chaotic and the worst since the record fall in Wall Streets's stocks in 1929.

The following survey of the overall situation in the United States compiled by IRNA is mainly based on news reports by international news agencies in the United States. The economic situation:

During the office of George Bush, a law graduate from Yale University [as received] and an ex-head of the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), unemployment rose by one million and because of Bush's adoption of policies favouring the moneyed class and capitalists, the poor became poorer and the rich became richer. There are now 30 million Americans living below the poverty line.

The fall of the Wall Street stock in 1929 left its impact on the U.S. economy for many years, and in 1989 it repeated another "great fall" after 60 years.

Many factories in the United States especially those manufacturing automobiles and aircraft were either closed down or had to lay off a substantial number of their personnel during the Bush Administration.

The budget deficit in the United States has become a matter of fact during the office of any president and during Bush's tenure it became graver and more serious than during previous administrations. His budget bill which his administration said would economize on expenditures in 1990 to the tune of dlrs 500 billion did not materialize.

Stephen Moore, director of Political and Financial Studies Center (CATO) said in the INSIGHT magazine that for the years 1991 to 1995 the U.S. is faced with a record budget deficit of the past 30 years to the tune of dlrs 1.426 trillion.

He said only in 1990 as many as 100,000 jobs were eliminated in the United States which is without precedence and the unemployment jumped from 5.5 per cent to 7.4 per cent.

Some observers say the uprising by black Americans and American Indians in the U.S. last year was due mainly to bad economy, and they add that hungry and unemployed people were a second away from insurrection.

A desperate Bush visited Tokyo in a bid to stem the declining U.S. economy and to pressure Japan to seek a more balanced trade with Washington. But it was a fruitless visit since it entailed more exports to the U.S. by Japan and more acquisitions of American companies by the Japanese.

Moreover, the European developments such as the end of a divided Germany and emergence of a united Europe caused more trouble for Bush on the economic and political scene. Recently Bush ascribed his defeat in the presidential campaign to the economic factor present in the United States. The social situation:

During the Bush Administration more people were jailed for commission of such crimes as theft, homicide and other.

1,100,000 Americans, mainly blacks, were incarcerated for alleged commission of crimes which in essence were poverty-related.

Many American sociologists maintain that the cost of keeping offenders in custody will be a lot less than that of developing employment opportunities for them.

American magazines say Washington was ranked first in rate of murder among the world capitals for the fourth consecutive year during the Bush administration. The murder rate in the United States is considerably higher than it is in any European country.

The media, and especially the television, play the leading role in legitimizing violence. On the basis of various surveys an average television channel in the United States broadcasts 1,200 instances of violence in 24 hours. Violence catches the eyes of the young audience as they appear in feature films, cartoons, and even in many commercials which during television shows. [sentence as received]

For that reason in the United States killing and violence is a natural phenomena. Of each five households in the United States three have advanced handguns ranging from the latest in the state of the art of killing down to ordinary fire arms. Like Clinton, Bush is member of a gun owners club.

American high school graduates, too, frequently carry fire arms and shoot at their class-mates in demonstration of their endorsement of Bush's fire arms policy. The motives of the American students behind their senseless killing of other students have been many and varied. Any American citizen can buy a handgun by filling out a form and send it to its manufacturer along with dlrs [dollars] 36.00 which he will receive by mail.

Sodomists and homosexuals are another symbol of the fast disintegrating American society. According to reports released about one million persons in the U.S. are infected with the HIV virus, the bacteria that causes the deadly Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) in humans, and many of them are to die soon like did Rock Hudson, Bush's favourite movie star.

One political analyst says that AIDS destroys the natural defence system of the body, but that the body of the social system in the United States does not seem to need that type of virus for its own self-destruction.

Although during the Bush administration a number of homosexuals in the U.S. Army and Navy were dismissed, but the public questioned why the same decision had not been adopted for defence department officials.

Morality was pushed to the farthest margin of the human concerns during the Bush administration at which the case of the Supreme Court Judge Thomas, true or not true, was only one sample of the collapse of the morality in the United States. Incest has long since become prevalent in many families in the United States.

In an obvious consequence of the moral corruption in the states, Catholic churches, too, have been involved. One minister was arrested in the U.S. last year on charges of having sexual relations with 60 children of both sexes who had been to church for services. Figures in the U.S. magazines about the prevalence of sexual offences at churches are shocking.

In fact George Bush has remained totally indifferent about the traditional values even though they were purely American, and willingly or perhaps only by default, he failed to set out any policies for handling that problem in the states. Foreign policy of the United States:

With the collapse of communism the United States, under Bush, became the sole superpower, although an incompetent one.

In the words of former American secretary of state, Henry Kissinger, the United States, acting as a mercenary for Arab shaykhs, attacked Iraq with the help of an Army of 500,000 killing thousands of innocent men and women for petro-dollars as simply as high school students aim at each other in the United States, and as simply as an young addict in the States would pull the trigger on his parents.

An economic analyst maintains that the Persian Gulf war portrayed the United States as a mercenary, disreputable and merciless nation. A nation whose citizens were compelled to shoulder the high cost of an unnecessary warfare by paying onerous taxes.

During the Bush administration the United States continued its sanctions against the Islamic Republic of Iran, albeit in a more malicious way, which policy offers a framework within which to analyse the recent meeting of the heads of the seven industralized nations in Bonn.

Perfect support for the Zionist regime, too, was a priority in Bush's foreign policy. U.S. Secretary of State Thomas Baker [name as received], although himself not a Jew, eventually supported Zionism more than had done any of his predecessors.

Just a few days before the start of the presidential elections George Bush endorsed a dlrs 10 bn [billion] loan to the Zionist regime to help it build Jewish settlements on the West Bank and Golan Heights. By doing that he was

obviously to curry favour with the Zionists although in the end it became clear that the trusts in the states had set their mind on another personality.

The fruitless Middle East talks between certain Arab states and the Zionist regime, was an initiative by the Bush administration: a conference that observers judge as already deadlocked.

The Bush administration also saw the collapse of communism that was the most inherent ideological enemy of the United States, as well as the fall of the Berlin Wall and the unity of the two Germanys. Although Washington initially seemed happy with the collapse of the old enemy, it is now preoccupied with the obsession of a Europe united with Russia.

To thwart any military action in Bosnia-Hercegovina for checking the genocide of Muslims by the Serbs was another of Bush's goals. Although because of a closer proximity with Bosnia-Hercegovina Europe should expectably feel more guilty conscious, at least unlike George Bush none of the European heads of state went as far as to say that they would not send troops to Bosnia-Hercegovina just because they did not have an interest in that part of the world.

Political observers say that the invasion of Somalia, the American brand of humanitarian aid to that country including of course the rape of starving women was a replay of the scenario of what had been done to Iraq during the Persian Gulf war, albeit on a lowerscale.

The invasion of Somalia by the United States even entailed resentment at home. In the wake of the U.S. involvement in Somalia, Jim Hoagland said in WASHINGTON POST that the arrival of the U.S. troops in Somalia was not much different from the action of the colonialists who landed there in the 19th century.

Jim Hoagland said that the journey to Somalia by the American troops was a repetition of an event that had long since been left behind. He said the move by the United States apparently aimed at national freedom, independence and decolonization which, he said, led to the gloomy streets in Mogadishu and demonstrated the fact that history had been repeated.

In the ultimate glance Bush is handing over his office to Clinton, another Yale graduate, at a time when the United States has degenerated into the poorest, the most merciless and the most crime-prone nation in the world.

It seems Clinton cannot do better than have a closer look at the situation at home than did Bush.

* U.S. Seen as Intent To Control Horn of Africa

93AS0351J London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Last week, hours after forces from the United States of America landed at the airport in Mogadishu, capital of Somalia, the Islamic Republic announced: America's purpose for sending soldiers to Somalia is to control oil export routes to the West. The Islamic Republic also predicted that the presence of the American army in Somalia might lead to the establishment of a hand-picked Western government in that country. In the view of the Tehran regime's political experts, the number of American troops in Somalia is larger than what is needed to supervise the delivery of food to the hungry people in that country.

The tankers that carry oil from the Persian Gulf to the West via the Suez Canal pass by the coasts of the Gulf of Aden. In explaining this matter, IRNA said: The goals of the United States of America in Somalia will come after the UN plan. It added: After the Persian Gulf war, America did not completely remove its forces from Kuwait, and it has the same idea in the Horn of Africa. It will soon designate a government dependent on it in Somalia and in the future America's presence in this country will threaten the peace in the area.

* Reasons for Yazdi's Travel to U.S. Queried

93AS0351O London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] When the polls in America were showing that Bill Clinton would definitely win the presidential elections, Ebrahim Yazdi, the foreign minister in Mehdi Bazargan's interim government, also went to the United States from Tehran. Since Yazdi had given up his American citizenship, he went to Europe first and requested a visa at the American Embassy in Paris. He received his visa after several days and then flew to the other side of the Atlantic.

While this "flight" was taking place, in Tehran in an interview with the Tehran magazine ADINEH, Mehdi Bazargan mildly but clearly criticized the official anti-American policy of the Islamic regime. He said that the slogan "death to America" will not give a revolutionary tone to the Islamic Republic's foreign relations, and that it would be better for the designers of the regime's foreign policy finally to come to their senses.

Political observers took these comments by Bazargan as a tangible sign, that in America Yazdi was able to tell those with whom he spoke that this trip was not done on his personal initiative and that it had the support of the leader of the Liberation Front.

While it is rumored in Tehran that this trip was funded by the Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic, in Tehran a statement was issued under the letterhead of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran dated 18 Azar [9 Dec] addressed to "committed hezbollah brothers and sisters," a copy of which has also reached KEYHAN of London. This statement says: "While world-devouring imperialism...led by the Great Satan criminal America...intends to destroy dear Islam and its committed leaders...we have received a report that Ebrahim Yazdi has met in America with Warren Christopher, deputy secretary of state during the years of the Islamic revolution."

The statement adds: "We committed Muslim brothers and sisters at the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic call upon leaders and highly placed officials in the government to clarify which official ordered him to go to Islam-hating America to meet with the representative of the time of the idolaters. Did he make this visit as a representative of the government, or as a spy?"

It is said in Tehran that Ebrahim Yazdi's trip to America took place at a time when the political atmosphere in the Islamic Republic is quite nervous and unsettled because of the fear that the new president will do something to get even for the defeat suffered by a Democratic president during the Carter era.

Iraq's Reaction to Joint Ultimatum Discussed

NC1001094293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0450 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Commentary prepared by the Central News Unit Research Group]

[Text] In the name of God. In the last minutes before the ultimatum issued by the United States, Britain, France, and Russia to Iraq to remove its SAM-2 and SAM-3 antiaircraft missiles from the no-fly zone expired, Iraq largely averted the current crisis by changing the positions of these missiles, following which the Pentagon stated that the Iraqi missiles were not in positions from which they could be used against Western planes. Thus, the two sides of the issue—Iraq and the United States—displayed their wish to control a crisis that had become a hot news item in the past few days.

After U.S. warplanes downed an Iraqi MiG-25 over the no-fly zone south of the 32d parallel, the Iraqi Government deployed antiaircraft missiles along the 32d parallel. The United States and its allies considered this a violation of the resolution that created the no-fly zone. For the past six months, Iraq has refrained from accepting the fact that part of its southern territory has been declared a no-fly zone. Two weeks ago, when two of its fighters flew over this area, it displayed its opposition to the creation of this zone.

In answer to why Iraq occasionally advances to the point of strengthening the threat of a fresh attack against it, but then retreats at the last moment from its initial stances and gives in to what the United States and its allies want, some political observers note that the Iraqi Government's repeated failures to achieve its ambitions have painted an unfavorable picture of its socioeconomic situation. They also note that the continuation of the paralyzing economic conditions—which stem from the consequences of the war by the United States and its allies against the occupation of Kuwait—have placed the country's sociopolitical situation in a critical state. Therefore, Iraqi officials believe that incidents that attract public attention in a country in which many affairs are in disorder will benefit this regime.

Iraqi President Saddam Husayn, more than ever, needs to divert public attention to issues abroad. There also are other reasons that encourage the Iraqi rulers to adopt scandalous stances. The Iraqi president has well understood that his continued rule in Baghdad largely depends on the concern felt by the United States and the West about Iraq's future and on the fact that this is among the major points on the Western governments' agenda. The adoption of opposing and scandalous stances during the past weeks and especially the fact that this situation coincides with the end of Bush's presidency prove that the importance attached by the United States to the continuation of or change in Iraq's political situation is the main motive behind the commotion created by the Iraqi regime.

At any rate, despite Iraq's extensive propaganda about the reconstruction of its Army, Baghdad's leaders are not ready in practice for involvement in another war. On the other front—the front of the United States and its allies—the wish for war or a deterrent action against Iraq does not go beyond limited punitive measures.

Following the approval of Security Council Resolution 766 declaring a no-fly zone in southern Iraq, concern arose over the possible dismemberment of Iraq. Thus, in assessing the situation, the Iraqi leadership has concluded that a collective agreement at an international level for a renewed war with Iraq does not exist.

Some political analysts believe that with its repeated commotions, Iraq actually wants to haggle with U.S. President Clinton. Clinton definitely does not intend at the beginning of his term to deal with affairs that are contrary to his presidential campaign slogans. If this view is correct, it should be said that Iraq is waiting for a sign in order to enter talks with the U.S. President-elect from a different stance. Through his reactions to Iraq, however, Bush is placing Clinton in a position in which he will have no alternative but to continue this policy on Iraq.

Interior Minister Nuri Returns From Turkmenistan

LD0901105593 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—Interior Minister Hojjat-ol-Eslam 'Abdollah Nuri returned to Tehran Friday [8 January] evening after a three-day official visit to Turkmenistan at the invitation of his Turkmen counterpart Serdan Charyyarov.

Upon his arrival at Tehran's Mehrabad International Airport, he told reporters that the two countries had signed a note of understanding concerning border and security issues.

According to the agreement, the two sides would exchange information about criminals, campaign against drug dealers and develop the level of mutual scientific and technological ties.

While in Ashkhabad, Nuri met with Turkmen leaders, including President Saparmurad Niyazov.

Egypt Said Promulgating 'American Brand' of Islam

LD1101135893 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—A daily Monday [11 January] wrote that suppression of Islamic movements and attempts to promulgate the American brand of Islam were in fact two sides of a coin which is expected to be spent to the benefit of Israel.

JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in its editorial commented on Cairo's new move in organizing an international conference on the approach towards a united Muslim ummah as well as on the reason for holding such a state-sponsored gathering given the arrest of Muslim activists by the Egyptian regime.

"By organizing such a session, the Cairo regime is following two specific objectives: To pretend it is not afraid of Islam and is working to pave the way for Muslim unity, and to promulgate the 'American brand' of Islam for which it tries to serve as a loudspeaker," said the editorial.

In a deceitful policy those whose hands are stained with the blood of Muslims pretend to be defending Islam, said the daily, adding that vigilant Egyptian Muslims were not expected to be lured by such vicious propaganda.

Indications are that the great Islamic uprising throughout the region has led to increased vigilance of the regional nations to the extent they would no longer be deceived by their anti-Islamic regimes, concluded JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI.

Situation of Muslims in Tajikistan Discussed

NC0901114593 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 15

[Unattributed commentary: "Muslimocide in Tajikistan"]

[Text] Following the intensification of the civil war in Tajikistan and the coming to power of the communists there, tens of thousands of people in southern Tajikistan have passed the borders and entered Afghanistan, where they are being housed in mosques, village houses, or tents donated by the United Nations and the Afghan Government.

The influx of refugees from Tajikistan to Afghanistan that started some time ago is continuing following the coming to power of the opponents of Islamic groups in Dushanbe and with the intensification of the suppression of Muslims by opposition forces. Meanwhile, Russia's Red Army, working with with Tajik communist forces, are playing an important part in murdering and plundering Muslims, namely Muslim Tajik refugees.

For more than a year now Tajikistan has been burning in the flames of a civil war, a war that pits Muslims on one side and communist remnants of the past regime on the other. The Moscow government, which has always supported the considerably strong communist faction in each one of its former republics, is considered to be the largest mentor and supporter of active communists in the 3.5-million strong Republic of Tajikistan. The communists comprise less than 10 percent of Tajikistan's population; however, the vast military strength in the hands of communist officers there rules out the possibility of any type of power assessment on the basis of population. Throughout the Tajik crisis, the communists have considered Uzbekistan as their refuge in all the offensives against the Tajik Muslims, so much so that some political observers consider the Uzbek Government to be behind the Tajikistan crisis.

The blow the Muslims have suffered in Tajikistan is mainly due to two mistakes: First, their stance at the so-called Khodzhand peace conference on 26 November. Thinking that they enjoyed more power, the Muslims gave up some important and key posts as a concession to the other rival groups to mitigate the crisis. They thus unwillingly placed the arena in the hands of their potential enemy. The second mistake was committed during the extensive and high- casualty aggression by the communists against the Tajik capital, Dushanbe, in the days after the Khodzhand Treaty was signed. During this attack, the Muslims lost a large part of their effective military strength because they disregarded the fact that the responsibility for confronting the aggression rested on the shoulders of the Dushanbe government.

Today the Muslims of Tajikistan are facing a complicated and critical situation. The high number of casualties, the wave of arrests and suppression by the communists and, ultimately, the large influx of refugees into neighboring countries, namely Afghanistan, paint a vague picture of the Tajik Muslims' future.

At any rate, Tajikistan is very far from true independence, stability, or tranquility. Overcoming the domestic crisis; neutralizing possible plans and plots by the CIS, specifically by Russia, which is trying to keep these republics dependent on Moscow; preserving the ability to control borders; controlling a tragic economy; and harnessing insecurity, unrest, inflation, and high prices are the problems facing this republic. These problems cannot be solved without the political sagacity of the government and without relying on the will of the Muslim nation of Tajikistan, which tolerated the bitter taste of suppression and despotism in all the aspects of its social, political, and cultural life for 70 years.

Assessment of Situation in Tajikistan Given

NC0901142993 Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 24 Dec 92 pp 1,3

[Editorial: "Tajikistan—Revival of Dictatorship"]

[Text] The quiet and pitiless massacre of the Muslims in Tajikistan has been cast into oblivion under the shadow of more important news items. Thousands of Muslim refugees have passed the Afghan border to seek refuge there and are now living under extremely dire conditions. The disarmament of Muslim combatants and the assassination of important personalities continue. International organizations are describing everything that is happening in Tajikistan as the internal affairs of that country and have completely abandoned it.

The incidents that have taken place in Tajikistan in recent weeks have, to a large extent, presented a picture of the true problems in the Central Asian republics. The root of Tajikistan's incidents should be sought in behind-the-scene issues the strings of which are undoubtedly being pulled by hidden and effective hands.

The independence of the independent CIS republics may continue under certain conditions. Despite the disintegration of the communist systems, all incidents so far reveal the suspicious and completely secretive role of the communists in the developments of the various countries in the region. The KGB and the armed forces of the former Soviet Union continue to be the active elements in these republics and are keeping an eye on the situation.

The most critical changes so far have taken place in two republics each of which has its specific problems. The people in the Republic of Azerbaijan took steps to regain their true identity after the disintegration of the former Soviet system. The people's inclination to revive their Islamic identity led to the commencement of political-propaganda activities by various parties and groups, most of which were directed by the former communists and were focused on how to seize absolute control after a series of political changes. Despite its tactical inclinations toward Turkey and to the Western countries, the Popular Front currently in power there is completely in agreement with the communists. The reason for the bonds that link Turkey and the West to the current rule of the Popular Front is the latter's opposition to the revival of Islamic and popular identity.

The existence of nationalist motives in Azerbaijan have led to propaganda capitalizations by the Popular Front, which is using these motives as an alternative tactic. All these specifically stem from the fear that is felt with the revival of Islamic identity in this country.

The important issue is the incidents in Tajikistan. The people of Tajikistan, who apparently believed that democracy, elections, and independence had been fulfilled, began forming political-religious parties and groups to achieve their logical demands. By displaying their identity, they started to participate in sociopolitical affairs. The Tajik people's daily-increasing inclination to democratic and Islamic groups and parties gradually weakened the role of those who, after Tajikistan's independence, had changed their mask and donned the new mask of nationalism and independence in a bid to protract the communist and dictatorial policies. However, ensuing developments showed that if they continued to incorrectly portray their policies, they would lose power. Former President Rakhman Nabiyev's resistance vis-a-vis the people's wants revealed the deceptive face of Tajikistan's democracy. With the people's resistance and their effort to exercise their responsibility to get power, the despots had no other alternative but to reveal their true face. If they had retreated even one step, the Tajik people would definitely have been able to seize the reins of their fate.

The military intervention of the CIS Army or, better put, the intervention by the former Red Army in support of the communist forces which was coupled with the active presence of the KGB led to a bloody coup in Tajikistan, to massacres, and to the trampling of the people's rights. Unfortunately these acts took place at a time when—because of acute crises stemming from the Bosnia-Hercegovina problem, U.S. intervention in Somalia, the destruction of the Babri Mosque, and the Palestinian issue—the world is unable to pay the necessary attention to Tajikistan.

What has happened in Tajikistan is the revival of the overt presence of the communists and the imposition of their power through force, massacres, and terror. These incidents are completely aimed at the Muslim people of that country. It is very doubtful, however, if this policy can continue and if it can solve the peoples problems.

Azerbaijani Official on Industrial Cooperation

LD1001140793 Tehran IRNA in English 1347 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 10, (IRNA)—The visiting Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Asker Mamedov said here Sunday [10 January] that Baku gives priority to economic and trade relations with Tehran.

Mamedov told Minister of Heavy Industries Mohammad Nezhad-Hoseynian that his visit aimed at further expanding bilateral relations. He said that Baku is interested in cooperation with Iran in the fields of heavy industry and car manufacturing.

Nezhad-Hoseynian referred to capabilities of both sides in meeting industrial needs of the other party and said that officials of the two countries should become familiar with potentials of one another.

The Azerbaijani official arrived here last Friday on a 4-day visit at the invitation of Nezhad-Hoseynian to follow up the articles of agreements reached between the countries.

He later inspected the Iran Khodrow Car Manufacturing Company and discussed purchasing buses and minibuses with company officials.

Rasht, Lankaran Officials View Relations

LD1101092593 Tehran IRNA in English 0833 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Rasht (Gilan Prov.), Jan. 11, IRNA—The Islamic Republic of Iran and Azerbaijan Republic are to establish consulates in Lankaran and Rasht cities respectively, according to a letter of understanding signed between the two countries in Baku last week.

The governor-general of Gilan Province, 'Ali Akbar Tahaie told IRNA that a considerable amount of citrus fruits, textile fabrics, clothes and industrial products would be exported to the republic from Gilan. He added that Gilan had helped Azerbaijan bring 40 hectares of its farmlands under cultivation last autumn.

Referring to his last week's visit to the republic, the governor said that he had offered reciprocal assistance to the people of the republic in return for their help in the wake of the 1990 disasterous earthquake in Gilan Province. He added that he and Azeri officials had agreed to hold constant meetings between governors of border cities of the two countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran would hold a big trade fair in Baku next year.

Air link between Baku and Rasht and exchange of students and professors were on the agenda of his talks with Azeri officials, he said. He said that 14 war wounded from Azerbaijan would be transferred to Rasht hospitals and fifty families would pay pilgrimage to Imam Reza (peace be upon him) shrine in Mashhad at the expense of the Rasht municipality.

Meanwhile, Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Asker Mamedov who arrived in Rasht on his way back home, said that the Islamic Republic of Iran was the main trade partner of the republic and hoped for further expansion of Tehran-Baku relations. He appreciated the assistance of Gilan Province to his people. Gilan's health department dispatched five tons of medicine to Baku Saturday. The Azeri delegation has demanded to purchase 500,000 tons of citrus fruits from Gilan Province.

* Marriage With Azeris Declared Unlawful

93AS0351R London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] The Ardebil Police District Ideological and Political Circle has warned Iranian citizens that it is illegal to marry citizens of the Republic of Azerbaijan and that "legal measures will be taken" against those who do this.

Citing guidelines issued recently by the Ministry of the Interior's General Foreign Citizen and Emigrant Affairs Office, the Ardebil Police emphasized that "it is illegal and without validity under the laws of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Iranian men and women to marry residents of the Republic of Azerbaijan or vice-versa."

The newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, in publishing this report, quoting an "informed official" from the General Foreign Citizen and Emigrant Affairs Office, added that marriages by Iranian citizens with residents of Azerbaijan, which have increased greatly in the wake of the movement back and forth in the last few years, have created various difficulties. This source emphasized: "Any Iranian citizen intending to marry a citizen of the Republic of Azerbaijan must first obtain the necessary authorization from the Ministry of the Interior." [as published]

According to numerous reports, which have been recently published, due to the high cost of marriage in Iran and the problems with marriage such as obtaining housing and the cost of living, many young people from Iranian Azarbaijan are going to the Republic of Azerbaijan to get married and choosing as spouses beautiful girls with low expectations on that side of the border. Marriages of this kind are much easier and less expensive.

On the other hand, so far there have been no reports of marriages between men from the former Soviet Azerbaijan and Iranian girls and women, as reported by by the Ardebil police in the first place!

Foreign Minister Velayati Visits Austria

WA1201124293

For reportage on the visit to Austria by Foreign Minister Velayati, including his talks with Austrian President Klestil and Austrian Foreign Minister Mock, see the Austria section of the 12 January West Europe DAILY REPORT.

* Velayati Takes on Teaching Position

93AS0351E London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Islamic Republic's minister of foreign affairs, with no prior university teaching experience, has been appointed a professor at the Medical Sciences University [as published] of Tehran University. The news of Velayati becoming a professor has not yet been officially published, but the notices offering congratulations to him published in Tehran's newspapers by the Islamic Republic's professional socializers have unveiled the situation.

Most of these congratulations mention the "rising to an academic position" of the minister of foreign affairs in Rafsanjani's government. Velayati studied medicine in America and specialized in pediatrics, but it is not clear how, in the long years while he was the Islamic Republic's minister of foreign affairs when he spent most of his time on foreign trips, he was able to raise his studies, his writing, and his professional experience to a level high enough to become a professor at Tehran University Medical College.

It is said that when he had the chance to be in Tehran, Velayati would spend one afternoon a week examining patients.

Islamic Countries Urged To Be More Active in UN

LD1101155193 Tehran IRNA in English 1432 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—The United Nations Organization is like an "international club" whose statute is formulated in such a way that its founding members secure their own interests, said Majlis Deputy Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani here Monday [11 January].

Khorasani, also Iran's former envoy to the United Nations, believed that the Third World countries, through unity and solidarity, can pose themselves as a strong whole in the international affairs and stop the current trend of the U.N.

In an interview with IRNA, he reiterated that the U.N. Security Council, due to its undemocratic structure, can never materialize the legitimate demands of the world countries. Khorasani noted that the United Nations is the only international forum and that Iran has no other option but to take the issues related to itself and to other Islamic countries to the U.N.

Also taking part in the interview, Qasem Sholeh Sa'di, Majlis deputy from Shiraz, Fars Province, termed the collapse of the former Soviet Union as a "turning point" in the functioning of the United Nations. Sa'di, who is also assistant professor in the faculty of political sciences of Tehran University, believed that the U.N. Security Council, which used to be an ineffective organization due to the existence of the bipolar system, is now more active in the wake of the disintegration of the eastern superpower.

He regretted that the U.S. exerts too much influence on the U.N. adding that the oil war and the the U.S. dispatch of troops to Somalia proved Washington's intention to abuse the power that the U.N. extended to it. Sa'di considered as positive that the U.N. and the Security Council are becoming more active in dealing with world affairs and continued that the Security Council can turn into a powerful international body and a determining factor in world stability once it acts as an independent organ away from the influence of the U.S. or any other country.

The United Nations and the Security Council can play an effective role in providing genuine peace and security and act as an impartial authority in settlement of international issues once the veto right of the five permanent members of the Security Council is cancelled and the sovereignty of all countries are equally accepted, he asserted. Sa'di called on all the U.N. members to act unitedly towards canceling the veto right.

The Majlis deputy blamed the Islamic countries for the U.N. inaction in the face of the savage massacre of Bosnian Muslims and the violation of the national sovereignty of Bosnia-Hercegovina by Serbs due to the existing discord among them adding that the Muslim countries can pose themselves as a determining power in solving the world issues provided that they unite.

On the U.N. secretary general's plan to help stabilize the situation in weak countries, Khorasani told IRNA that the plan is of humanitarian nature but that it may turn into an ominous one in light of the prevailing condition in the organization and the veto right.

Asked to comment on the same plan, Sa'di said that the plan is in line with the objectives and covetous ideas of the U.S. adding that the aim behind implementing the plan is to entrust the guardianship of the weak countries to the U.S.

Khorasani viewed that the present U.N. statute makes it impossible for the U.N. to play a determining role in the world peace. He said that 25 percent of the U.N. budget is presently financed by the U.S. In other words, he continued, the organization would experience a serious problem, if Washington decided to withdraw its contribution to the U.N.

To improve the efficiency of the U.N., most U.N. member countries should call for a radical change in the administration of the organization, he said and stressed that nothing could be changed if only few third world countries protest the status quo. Supporting the idea that all U.N. member countries could take control of the organization, he notified that most of them have not the adequate financial power to provide even one fifth of the U.N. expenses.

Pointing to the U.N. present condition, he urged the members to avoid useless talks, further study the U.N. structure and adopt cautious stands in order to minimize confrontations. He specified that adoption of an understanding attitude towards the West can bring a positive change in the attitude of the organization towards the world issues.

Khorasani specified that the U.N. recent report by its special rapporteur Reynaldo Galindo Pohl on human rights situation in Iran was an "absolutely political move" and explained that the Western countries are afraid of the Islamic Republic and spread of Islamic movements throughout the world. They wish to force the Islamic republic to withdraw from its well-known stands through launching such propaganda ballyhoo.

Sa'di shared the view with Khorasani adding that the West employs the human rights issue as a weapon for exerting pressure on the world countries, the Islamic Republic in particular. Reiterating the need to fully observe the human rights principles, Sa'di said that the human rights principles are better observed in Islam than in human rights declaration, used by the West as a tool for exerting pressure.

Daily Lists Hopes for Dakar Muslim Summit

LD1101143693 Tehran IRNA in English 1336 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 11, IRNA—A morning daily Monday [11 January] expressed hope that the outcome

of the summit meeting of a number of heads of Muslim states, scheduled in the Senegalese capital of Dakar Monday, would be as such that the public opinion in the Muslim world would not assess the summit's decisions as contrary to the sublime objectives of Islam.

JOMHURI ESLAMI wrote that some observers were hopeful that although the summit would focus on the issue of 415 Palestinian deportees, it could exert further pressure on the U.N. Security Council to take serious measures against the Serbs as the January 15 deadline set by the sixth extraordinary session of the OIC [Organization of Islamic Countries] foreign ministers in Jeddah, is approaching.

However, given the combination of the participants at the summit, some circles hold that any decision by such a gathering would be influenced by their foreign relations which were based on their national interests rather than interests of the Muslim world, it added.

The article stressed that under the prevailing conditions in the Muslim world, the participant heads of state at Dakar conference would expose themselves to the judgement of history on how they would meet their grave responsibilities towards the world Muslims.

Commenting on the legitimacy of those participating in the summit, the daily stressed that they had their own problems: Pakistan was under question as far as popular support was concerned, Morocco was perpetuating aggression against Sahrawi people, and 'Arafat was negotiating with the Zionist regime.

It concluded by arguing whether such a gathering could come up with decisions about the most sensitive issues facing the Muslim world and if such decisions could be implemented.

Khamene'i Reappoints Representatives to SNSC

LD1101113193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the esteemed Leader of the Islamic Revolution, today, in separate edicts, reappointed Hojjaj ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni and Haj Shaykh Hasan Ruhani, as his representatives on the Supreme National Security Council [SNSC] for a period of two years. The text of the eminent leader of the Islamic revolution's edict, addressed to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, and to Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Haj Shaykh Hasan Ruhani, is as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. In line with Article 176 of the Constitution, I reappoint your excellencies to represent me on the SNSC for a period of two years. It is expected that in view of the prominent and excellent role of that council's decisions in terms of realizing the independence and national security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, you will be of assistance with regard to the authority and independence of the lofty Islamic system through active participation in the council and continuous exchanges of views with me. I beseech Almighty God to grant you success.

[signed] Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i. 21 Dey 1371 [11 January 1993]

Human Rights Group on Execution of Bosnia Muslims

LD0901171093 Tehran IRNA in English 1323 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 9, IRNA—A Human Rights Watch official in a letter to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani Saturday [9 January] confirmed the summary execution of at least 88 Muslims, including 11 children and 16 elderly persons, in the village of Zaklopaca in eastern Bosnia by Serbian paramilitaries on May last year.

Executive Director of the Middle East Watch Andrew Whitely listed a series of activities carried out by the Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Helsinki Watch (HW) in connection with the Muslim victims of the bloody Serbian war in Bosnia-Hercegovina.

In response to the concerns and criticizms of the Islamic Republic of the inactivity of the international community and the perceived absence of human rights organizations, he wrote that HRW has undertaken efforts to alert the international community of the appalling brutality inflicted on the civilian population and expose the extreme violations of interantional law.

He added that HW, a sister organization and a division of HRW, "had been in the lead in calling on the United Nations Security Council and Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali to investigate more forcefully charges of war crimes in Bosnia-Hercegovina and to establish an international tribunal to prosecute, adjudicate and punish those found guilty of grave breaches of the Geneva conventions."

Whitely further informed President Rafsanjani that the executive director of Helsinki Watch, Jeri Laber, is preparing for a fact-finding mission to Bosnia in the coming weeks to investigate and document charges of sexual abuse of women.

Further in the letter, Whitely noted that HW has been critical of the international community, including the United States, for misreading the situation as it was developing in former Yugoslavia and for its indecisiveness in dealing with the escalating violence there.

He assured Rafsanjani in conclusion that HRW as an organization has and will continue to pursue all avenues available for seeking out, documenting and disclosing these crimes as all other crimes committed against humanity in violation of international law.

French-Algerian Relations Commented On

LD0901174493 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1621 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Extensive arrests, closed trials, sentences of death or long terms of imprisonment without any defense or any reason arrests, these are all indicative that Algeria's leadership has no program whatsoever for the restoration of democratic trend in that country. Last year, Algeria's [High] State Council came to power with the claim that it would prepare the grounds for elections in the country. But currently, this Council—which has been in power for nearly one year—has not even been able to establish security in the country. Of course, this inability must be seen to be as a result of the State Council's inability to obtain legitimacy to rule the nation.

Under these conditions, France's siding with the current policies of Algeria is tolerable [as heard]; since Paris—which did not agree with halting the election process in Algeria to start with—has just expelled a number of Algerian government opponents from French soil to reduce the existing tension in relations between the two countries.

Under these conditions, political circles predict that the French foreign minister will agree to the request by Algerian officials to delay the repayment of part of the eight billion dollars loaned to Algeria by France so as to reduce the level of the existing economic crisis in Algeria.

* Council Approves Presidential Election Date

93AS0351C London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] On 21 Khordad 1372 (11 June 1993) an election for the president of the republic and mid-term Majles elections will be held throughout Iran. The minister of the interior, who previously published this date, said that holding the elections on that day is subject to the approval of the Council of Guardians. Now the Council of Guardians has announced its approval.

This is the second election for the president of the republic since the death of Ayatollah Khomeini and the revision of the Constitution under which the prime minister was removed from the government and executive prerogatives were given to the president of the republic, who is elected directly by public vote.

It is expected that this time more people will declare as candidates for president of the republic. In the past term, although tens of people registered as candidates for president of the republic, the Council of Guardians approved the candidacies of only two people, 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani and 'Abbas Shibani, who is now a Majles deputy.

* New Elections Could Bring in New Faces

93AS0351L London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] The announcement of a new election for president of the republic, to which some are referring as "the election of a new president of the republic," has heated up the rumor market in Iran, and this will probably continue until a candidate or candidates are determined.

The minister of the interior has said that the coming election for president of the republic will take place throughout the country on Friday 21 Khordad [11 Jun 1993]—two months before the end of Hashemi-Rafsanjani's presidency—concurrent with the mid-term Majles elections (subject, of course, to the approval of the Council of Guardians, which is the main player in any election).

Under the Constitution, the Council of Guardians not only must make sure that Majles legislation conforms to the Islamic Shari'ah on the one hand and the Constitution on the other in order for that legislation to become law, it also "supervises" the proper conduct of the elections. After the death of Khomeini, however, the right of "supervision" also came to mean that the competence of candidates in every election had to be approved by the Council of Guardians, and since interpretation of the Constitution is one of the prerogatives of the Council of Guardians, it has been able to implement this opinion.

However, the fact that the minister of the interior also said that the 21 Khordad date for the elections is subject to the approval of the Council of Guardians shows that the minister of the interior has also placed himself at the disposal of the Council of Guardians.

In view of the rumors that are practically true and the truths that resemble rumors that are circulating in Iran, the coming elections for president of the republic could be one of the hottest public referenda in the Islamic Republic since the first elections were held in the year 1358 [21 Mar 1979-20 Mar 1980]—depending on who the candidates will be.

Informed circles in Tehran do not take that seriously reports on the prospective candidacies of Musavi Kho'ini'ha, director of the newspaper SALAM and former national public prosecutor, and Karbasi, mayor of Tehran. On the other hand, the rumor that Ahmad Khomeini and Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the Khomeini regime's last prime minister, will be candidates is taken more seriously.

One question is this: Will the Tehran Combative Clerics Society [breakaway group], which suffered a humiliating defeat in the last elections for the Assembly of Experts and the Majles, be able to persuade Ahmad Khomeini to step into the election fray?

Meanwhile, a traveler who returned from Tehran recently said: Of course it is important for us to see what

person or persons will become candidates for president of the republic, but more important than that is for us to know who will not be a candidate: 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

This recalls a report sent by an international television reporter from Moscow during the Brezhnev era: He said that it is not important who is on the reviewing stand during the October parade, the important thing is who is not there!

* Karrubi on Illegality of Foreign Investments

93AS0351F London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 1

[Text] Mehdi Karrubi, former speaker of the Majles and executive director of the Martyr Foundation, announced that his political memoirs will soon be published. Karrubi, who had gone to Tabriz on behalf of the Tehran Society of Combative Clergy [breakaway group], said in that city: Foreign investment in Iran is illegal under the Constitution, especially since an economic task is followed by cultural propaganda, and this violates the values of the Islamic revolution. Karrubi complained about the rumors all over the country about him traveling abroad. He said: I do not now have a heavy responsibility as I did before, and there is therefore no need for my constant appearances on radio and television, but the people think I have gone abroad.

Karrubi said: I will soon publish my political memoirs. Mehdi Karrubi and his group are opposed to any kind of foreign presence in Iran, even in the form of an investment, while Hashemi-Rafsanjani and his technocrat colleagues are constantly trying to attract foreign investment to Iran.

* Karrubi on Keeping Out Accomplished Forces

93AS0351H London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] Engineer 'Abdol-'Alizadeh, governor general of East Azarbaijan and former Majles deputy, who is a friend of Mehdi Karrubi, former speaker of the Majles, invited Karrubi to Tabriz last week. In speeches they both gave at a congress on the "position of women," they vented their anger at Rafsanjani.

'Abdol-'Alizadeh said: The rumors that were spread in the country about Mr. Karrubi, falsely accusing him, are these same clever domestic plots. 'Abdol-'Alizadeh said: The Imam always said concerning Mr. Karrubi: He is one of those who have been beaten for the sake of the revolution.

During his speech, former Majles speaker Mehdi Karrubi said: Eng. 'Abdol-'Alizadeh is one of those specialists who were unable to get into the Majles in the last elections. He added: In meetings I had with several specialist and technical ministers, they clearly expressed regret that experienced and specialist forces were unable to get into the Majles this term, and one of these specialists was this same Eng. 'Abdol-'Alizadeh.

* Guard Becomes Deputy for Law Enforcement

93AS0351B London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] [Ghazur] Darjezi, a revolutionary guard whose military rank has not yet been announced, has been appointed deputy for intelligence in the Tehran Police District. The former deputy was General Karim Malahi.

General 'Oqba'i, commander of the Greater Tehran Police District, said during ceremonies presenting the new deputy: "We are servants of the people and we must serve with a spirit of sacrifice... If we cannot serve, then we must step down." The firing of the former deputy, who was an officer in Iran's traditional armed forces and appointing a revolutionary guard in his place, is part of a more extensive movement to remove former sheriff and gendarmerie officers from the police forces and fill their places with revolutionary guards.

* Paper on Conspiracy To Remove Sohrabi

93AS0351N London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 12

[Text] After the firing of General Sohrabi, former commander of the police forces, and the appointment of "Commander General Seyfollahi" from the revolutionary guards to replace him, armed demonstrations on the intercity roads in Iran also stopped, or at least declined significantly.

The demonstration on the Chalus-Karaj Road, the demonstration on the Ahvaz-Kermanshah road, the demonstration on the Tehran-Firuzkuh road, and many other demonstrations on less-traveled roads—these were the "incidents" reported occasionally in Tehran's newspapers.

Informed circles say that recommendations by police forces commander Gen. Sohrabi to the press that they refrain from publishing such reports were not that effective. They even go a step further. They believe that the reports on the demonstrations were also made by prominent individuals. It is also interesting that it was announced each time that the people behind the demonstrations had been "identified" and would "soon" be arrested, but these "identifications" almost never led to arrests.

The same circles believe that the demonstrations and their reflections in the media were part of an extensive plot to weaken the position of Gen. Sohrabi, a former gendarmerie officer, in order to be able to replace him as soon as possible with former revolutionary guard commander and current general Reza Seyfollahi.

Those circles believe that the effort to diminish the influence of Sohrabi and the gendarmerie in the police forces is continuing and its purpose is gradually to turn all the key positions in this government organization over to members of the revolutionary guards or members of the former Islamic revolutionary committees. In this framework, the transfer of 5,000 revolutionary guardsmen to the police forces has special meaning.

*** Disagreement Suspected in Budget Delay**

93AS0351A London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 pp 1, 11

[Text] On Tuesday 24 Azar [15 December] Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic, presented his fourth government budget to the Majles. This is the first budget to be considered by the Fourth Majles. Compared to the budget for 1371 [21 Mar 1992-20 Mar 1993], the budget for 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994] shows growth of 87 percent. Revenues in this budget are estimated at 23,538.5 billion rials. Of the above figure, 67.2 percent is oil revenue, 23 percent is tax revenue, and 9.8 percent is "other revenues." In discussing this budget, Hashemi-Rafsanjani emphasized its three main characteristics:

"First is the fact that in accordance with the goal set in the first Five-Year Plan, for the first time in 25 years the amount borrowed from the banking system to make up the budget deficit reached zero."

"Second is the fact that in accordance with the government's decision to standardize the foreign exchange rate, the system used to ration foreign exchange in the last seven years has been stopped, and the figures in next year's Budget Bill have been estimated based on foreign exchange rates to be calculated according to supply and demand."

"The third characteristic of the 1372 budget is the effort that has been made to make the budget as clear as possible, and some figures on government expenditures, which in the past were financed through various methods outside the budget, have been reflected in the framework of the public budget."

Initially the 1372 budget bill was to have been presented to the Majles on Sunday 22 Azar [13 Dec], and until the last minute this was the first item on the agenda of Sunday's open Majles session in the Majles office. Observers believe that the 48-hour postponement of this event, for which no justification was given by official spokesmen, indicates that difficult negotiations were going on with many ups and downs up until the last minute on setting national economic policy among the various factions of the Islamic Republic.

The budget bill, in the form in which it was presented to the Majles, may serve only to establish a temporary cease-fire between the warring factions. In reality the underlying philosophy of this document, which outlines the nation's economic horizons for a one-year period, has been under relentless attack for months by influential individuals and political trends in the Islamic Republic who oppose the economic policies of the president of the republic. Despite the concessions that he evidently inserted into the bill at the last minute to silence opponents, Hashemi-Rafsanjani will have a difficult time reconciling the "liberal" directions in his budget with the "Islamic economy" sought by his rivals.

In his speech to the Majles, Rafsanjani implicitly accused his rivals of not having a program other than selling oil and rationing, and he said what they do will end in destroying the nation's economic foundations. He said: "Perhaps the easiest thing for the current government to do in economic affairs is to spend oil revenues on importing consumer goods, and to distribute these goods among the various classes through rationing and other means, thereby providing a comfortable and apparently low-cost consumer life for many of the people. On the other hand, by distributing and rationing primary imported goods, this will create a comfortable and inflated income in urban societies by setting up conditions for brokers and middlemen. Consequently the government will not have to endanger itself by making decisions which are unprecedented in our country in terms of their kind and extent in the realm of government decisionmaking..."

Rafsanjani also did not leave unanswered the daily growing criticism against increasing imports: "In the first years of the plan, due to the intense need of the nation's economic sector for the reconstruction of lost foundations, the volume of imports increased." Although he accepts the fact that the "the volume of the nation's commitments in the past" has increased, he promises that in the future these commitments will decrease.

The president of the Islamic Republic of Iran then discussed the main lines of the 1372 budget, and he gave special emphasis to the following two major points: The budget deficit has fallen to zero and the figures in the bill were calculated based on floating foreign exchange rates. Rafsanjani does not say, however, that in these two vital areas, his opponents have tied his hands to a great extent.

In the area of reducing the budget deficit, Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government was faced both with its commitments in the first Five-Year Plan and with pressure from the international financial organizations, and especially the IMF, to decrease the budget deficit in the first "Five-Year" Plan in relation to the gross domestic product from 9.6 percent in the year 1367 [21 Mar 1988-20 Mar 1989] to 0.2 percent in the year 1372 [21 Mar 1993-20 Mar 1994]. For their part, IMF experts pressured the government of Iran by persuading it that it is in its best interest to gain the credibility necessary to obtain international credit and get out of its current financial dead-end to establish full equilibrium as soon as possible between revenues and expenditures. How will this equilibrium, which Rafsanjani's bill is committed to achieve, be established?

The ways Rafsanjani's government can reduce expenditures are quite limited. The Majles has already clipped the president of the republic's wings, and has taken $5 billion out of his control. The reason is that the deputies were willing to accept the plan to standardize foreign exchange on the condition that the government's foreign exchange commitments be divided into two parts: $5 billion dollars of it is to be exchanged at the current

official rate for procuring basic goods and medicines, and the rest at the floating rate, will be given to institutions affiliated with the government. Other solutions provided in the first Five-Year pLan and favored by international financial experts for reducing expenditures will meet severe resistance from the factions opposed to Rafsanjani. We will mention some of these solutions, which were recommended by the first Five-Year Plan to reduce the government's expenditures:

- Calling for public participation in meeting some of the costs of providing public services;
- Reducing the financial burden of government expenses by transferring some of its existing responsibilities to the non-government sector;
- Reducing the coverage of government educational services by transferring some of them to the non-government sector;
- Adjusting current expenses to the detriment of companies and profit-making institutions affiliated with the government;
- Gradually decreasing the number of people employed in government-sector support positions;
- Revising rates for government goods and services....

Putting a finger on any one of these hot topics could light the fires of a crisis in the relations between the various factions in the Islamic Republic. Therefore, in terms of reducing expenditures, The president of the republic has very little room to maneuver.

Another way to achieve a zero budget deficit is naturally to increase revenues. In view of the current situation in the energy market, there is not much hope of increasing revenues through oil exports. The way out for Rafsanjani is to increase tax revenues, and in the 1372 budget tax revenues for the current solar year are to increase 50 percent, rising to 8.2 percent of gross national revenues. In his report to the Majles, the president of the republic said: "The increases in tax revenues in 1372 are mostly due to increased income taxes and import taxes, and these increases will be achieved with influence from the improvement in the nation's economic situation and the expansion in production and commercial activities." Apart from the fact that the president of the republic's hopes depend on factors about whose realization there is much doubt, is there anyone who does not know that Iran's taxation system is fundamentally ruined, and that it is extremely optimistic to place hopes in procuring dependable revenues from it?

The final point is that the 1372 budget bill, to mollify Khamene'i, makes provisions to confront the "cultural invasion" and especially to act on the leader of the revolution's "grudge against videos." In his meetings with members of the cultural revolution council held on Thursday 19 Azar [10 Dec], Khamene'i said: "Today's videos have become a market for promoting vulgarity and moral corruption, and the Supreme Cultural Revolution Council must...keep the people and especially the young people protected from this pervasive danger." In this same regard, while presenting the budget to the Majles, Rafsanjani said: "In implementing the exalted leader's wise commands to confront the cultural invasion of foreigners, next year special attention has been given to carrying out cultural and artistic activities...and special credit has been provided to make proper use of video films."

It is unlikely that agreement on "videos" will end the war between the factions in the Islamic Republic, a war that pulls Iran's economy from one storm to another like a ship without an anchor in a sea of unknowns.

* Unauthorized Water Use, Electricity Shortage

93AS0351D London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] In a seminar on water conservation recently held in Tehran, a deputy minister of power said: While 8.5 billion cubic meters of water are drawn annually in Iran, 3.5 billion cubic meters of that is "unauthorized drawing," meaning it is drawn without a water meter. Thus about 40 percent of the nation's water is drawn through unauthorized means and consequently, no revenues go to the government treasury for it.

On the other hand, the deputy minister of power for electrical affairs said at another seminar that in the first six months of the year Iran faced a shortage in electrical power production of 1,440 megawatts, and yet the Islamic Republic announced that it provides a significant amount of the electrical power shortages in the republic of Nakhichevan.

* Minister Warns Writers Attacking Islam

93AS0351G London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 2

[Text] 'Ali Fallahian, the Islamic Republic's minister of intelligence, threatened writers, poets, and newspaper journalists that if they want to continue the "cultural assault against Islam and the revolution" through the publication of their works, they will face a harsh reaction from this ministry.

Speaking in Mashhad, he said that the "cultural invasion" has "two dimensions": the dimension of thought and the dimension of morality. In his view the "dimension of thought" is those same kinds of articles, stories, and plays that are written to deny "revolutionary and Islamic values," and the "moral dimension" is the same propagation of corruption and addiction.

The minister of intelligence said that his ministry will seriously oppose these two dimensions. He said that he will expose the writers who work in the interest of foreigners and reveal their record.

The minister of intelligence said: There are elements who are working to "stir up discontent" on the one hand and who prefer "measures taken in one's best interest" on the other hand. He said fighting them is one of the programs of the Ministry of Intelligence. In conclusion he said that his trip to Mashhad was for a "study of the

security and social issues in the province of Khorasan," but he made no mention of the nature of these issues.

* 'Ali Pahlavi on Salman Rushdie's Sentence

93AS0351I London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Patrick 'Ali Pahlavi, son of Shapur 'Ali Reza Pahlavi, who was killed about 30 years ago in a plane crash in the north of Iran, said this week: The fatwa to kill Salman Rushdie issued by Ayatollah Khomeini is a clear deviation from Islam. He called upon Muslims, wherever in the world they live, to oppose this fatwa. 'Ali Pahlavi, who turned his back on the members of his family 25 years ago, harshly criticized the leaders of the Iranian Government in an open letter. He said: Those who are condemning Salman Rushdie are degrading the Koran in the eyes of the people of the world by inverting the essence of its meaning.

'Ali Pahlavi added: The Koran says clearly that the punishment for speaking as an infidel must be no greater than the extent of the violation itself. 'Ali Pahlavi added: The maximum punishment that Salman Rushdie could deserve is to be disgraced himself in a book, or the Muslims of the world could boycott his books. Under no circumstances, however, should Salman Rushdie be sentenced to death, because he has not killed anyone. In this letter, 'Ali Pahlavi invited Muslims all over the world to oppose the order to kill Salman Rushdie by any means they can. He noted that this is the first step in the direction of peace, freedom of expression, democracy, and liberation from all injustice.

* Tudeh Leader's Memoirs To Be Published

93AS0351K London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 3

[Text] Nur ol-Din Kiyanuri, secretary general of the Tudeh Party, who in the year 1361 [21 Mar 1982-20 Mar 1983] became "illegal" in Iran for the second time (the first time was in 1327 [21 Mar 1948-20 Mar 1949] after shooting at the shah at Tehran University), is publishing his memoirs. The newspaper ETTELA'AT, which published this report, adds that these "memoirs" will be published first in this newspaper in "serialized" form.

Kiyanuri, who is now 79 years old, has been in detention for 10 years. The conditions of his detention are now "freer," and he lives in a house with his wife, Mariam.

* Professor Accused of Insulting Islamic Values

93AS0351M London KEYHAN in Persian 24 Dec 92 p 5

[Text] A professor at the Ahvaz College of Physical Education has been accused of "insulting Islamic values by drawing a caricature and displaying it in the college's poster area."

Following this, the Islamic societies of students at Martyr Chemran University and the Ahvaz colleges of agriculture and dentistry have issued a statement condemning the "insulting measures" by this professor. They have called him a person of "known character" and they "demanded that officials deal with this matter." In the aforementioned statements, "while emphasizing the alertness and decisive presence of students for the purpose of fighting desperate counterrevolutionary activity," officials were asked to look into the matter as soon as possible. In the face of a threat from the Islamic student societies against the reporter from the newspaper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI, the president of Ahvaz University said: "We have taken measures to deal with this matter through the appropriate ministry."

In their statement, the students belonging to the Islamic society threatened: "If steps are not taken quickly, we will act ourselves and give the proper answer to this insult and boldness."

So far professors at various universities have been threatened in this same way several times for expressing ideas opposed to those of the hezbollah students, and have been either fired or reprimanded. However, since the publication of a caricature of a one-armed soccer player resembling Khomeini in the magazine FARAD, which led to an attack on the publication's office and its closure, this is the first time that a university professor has been accused of insulting Islamic values by drawing a caricature. We have not yet received any information on the subject matter of the aforementioned caricature.

Nepal

Indian Minister To Discuss Refugee Issue

BK1101142193 Hong Kong AFP in English 1410 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 11 (AFP)—Indian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs R. L. Bhatia arrived here Monday [11 January] evening from Dhaka on a one-day visit as a special envoy of Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, an official said.

He was received by Nepalese Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and Indian Embassy.

Bhatia is scheduled to deliver a letter from Rao to Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala when he calls on him Tuesday afternoon.

During the meeting Koirala is expected to raise the problem faced by Nepal because of the more than 82,000 Bhutanese refugees of Nepalese origin who have fled Bhutan for Nepal.

During the meeting, Bhatia is also scheduled to discuss with Koirala various international, regional and bilateral issues of mutual interest, as well as the future of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, whose summit set for this week was cancelled after Rao said he would not travel to Dhaka.

French Financing To Help Upgrade Airport

BK0801153893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1524 GMT 8 Jan 93

[Text] Kathmandu, Jan 8 (AFP)—France is to help install runway, approach and apron lights at Biratnagar Airport in southeastern Nepal for flights landing at night through debt-relief financing, a Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation source said Friday.

An agreement was reached between the two countries last year for assistance worth 3.9 million French francs (700,830 dollars), the source said.

A contract was recently signed between the Civil Aviation Department and a French company to complete the installation work within one year.

The project will improve communications and flight assistance as well as navigation in bad weather and at night, the source added.

Pakistan

India Criticized for Blaming Neighbors on SAARC Summit

BK1101154693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Jan 93

[Text] A Foreign Office spokesman has said in Islamabad that the sole reason for postponement of the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, SAARC, is that Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao had decided not to attend it. Commenting on Indian press reports, the spokesman said that India should shun the old habit of putting the blame on neighboring countries for its own (?steps). The spokesman expressed the hope that the SAARC summit will be held shortly.

Commentary Blames India for Postponement

BK1101101993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Commentary by A.B.S. Jafri: "Postponement of Dhaka SAARC Summit"]

[Text] The summit meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, the SAARC, once again had to be postponed because the Indian prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, could not make it at the very last moment. The summit was to open in Bangladesh capital Dhaka on January 13th for a two-day session. The spokesman for the Indian prime minister announced that Mr. Rao will not be able to attend. This was not a great surprise and a bolt from the blue. The situation in India had been far from peaceful and stable for some months. It erupted literally like an earthquake on December 6, when the militant Hindu organizations actually carried out their long standing threat to tear down the Babri Mosque in the Uttar Pradesh city of Ayodhya.

The Babri Mosque was more than an ordinary mosque. It was built by Emperor Babar - the founder of the dynasty of the great Moghuls. It was 500 years old and representative of a glorious tradition of architecture. It was a Muslim monument, in addition to being a place of worship and, hence, sacred and inviolable. The demolition of the mosque, something which the higher courts in India had forbidden and the government of Mr. Narasimha Rao had committed itself solemnly to save from destruction and desecration. Summing short, on December 6 the militant Hindu multitudes demolished the mosque, while uniformed police and other supporting forces of law and order looked on. Some actually participated in the sad deed. Reaction to this terrible act of vandalism was sharp and [word indistinct] in Pakistan and in Bangladesh, but governments in both countries brought the commotion under control firmly and promptly.

What followed the destruction of the mosque in India was countrywide rioting, resulting within one day in more than 1,000 Muslims dead, their houses and businesses set on fire and looted and otherwise vandalized. The pity is that in some of the major cities of India—Bombay and Ahmedabad to name only two—rioting and destruction of Muslim life and property continues. According to international news sources, some 60 were killed in Bombay yesterday. The end to rioting and [word indistinct] murderous violence is no where in sight.

In Pakistan, complete calm prevails. Indeed, under direct instructions of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif work is already underway to repair whatever damage was caused to temples during the protest demonstrations on December 8 as a direct sequence to what had happened in India. More or less, the same can be said for Bangladesh, where too the Babri Mosque outrage had ignited angry protests. So, that is the situation In India, Pakistan and Bangladesh. In India, rioting and violence continues. In Pakistan or Bangladesh, peace prevails.

Seeing in this background, the explanation by Indian spokesman for Indian Prime Minister Rao's inability to attend the SAARC summit in Dhaka sounds contrary to facts. The New Delhi spokesman blamed, what he vaguely described, some countries in the subcontinent for having created a situation in which Mr. Rao could not proceed to Dhaka. In the first place, there is no conditions at all which make Mr. Rao's arrival and stay in Bangladesh capital impossible. The plain fact is that the situation inside India is so shifty and uncertain that Prime Minister Narasimha Rao cannot afford to lose sight of. The militant Hindu parties are on the warpath. Rioting continues in some of the most sensitive centers. His political opponents, that is the Hindu extremists, have all but won the first round by sheer application of inhibitive force and street power. Mr. Rao's Congress

and his supporters are on disorderly retreat. Not within his his own party there are [words indistinct]. This is being pointed out more with sorrow and sympathy for Mr. Rao's present predicament, then by way of criticism or fault-finding. What is, however, regrettable is the attempt made by the Indian spokesman to blame India's colleagues in the SAARC community. India's present troubles, serious as there no doubt are, we know are of its own making. No other country in the SAARC region have acted in a manner which may even remotely be negative or unhelpful. And surely, Mr. Narasimha Rao knows it, only too well.

Sharif on Sindh Operation, Kashmir, U.S. Ties

BK1001143293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif, has said the government is determined to root out social evils from the society. Talking to newsmen at the Parliament House this evening, he said in this connection we will legislate if necessary. The year 1993 is the year of jehad against social evils. In reply to a question, the prime minister said by the end of next month, the government will review the Operation Cleanup in the Sindh province. After the review, we will take the decision of its continuing or otherwise, he said. Whatever the decision, it will be in the best interest of the country.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said that Pakistan will continue its political, moral and diplomatic support to the just struggle of the Kashmiri people. Their struggle is continuing for the last 43 years. So long as India does not implement the UN resolutions on Kashmir, the struggle will continue. It is the responsibility of the Indian Government to fulfill its commitment on the question of Kashmir.

Replying to another question, the prime minister said Pakistan wants to further improve its relations with the United States and there can be no two opinions over it.

During his press (?talk), the prime minister also gave the details of the parliamentary party meeting which was attended by the IJI [Islami Jamhoori Ittehad] and its allies parties in parliament. The meeting was held in Islamabad this afternoon. The meeting adopted a unanimous resolution eulogizing the services of the late chief of army staff, General Asif Nawaz. During the meeting law and order situation was also discussed. The parliamentarians were of the view that everything possible should be done to eliminate crimes from the society. In this connection, the meeting also took stock of improving the system to bring an end to the crimes. The meeting also emphasized the need to root out sectarianism and narcotics from the country. Development projects, particularly Tamir-i-Watan [national reconstruction] programs, also came under discussion. The parliamentary party expressed its satisfaction over the relief measures for the rehabilitation of the flood affected people.

UAE Information Minister Confers With Lalika

BK0901150393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] The UAE [United Arab Emirates] minister for information and culture, Mr. Khalfan Bin-Muhammad al-Rumi, has said that thousands of Pakistanis have played a pioneering role in the development of the United Arab Emirates—a fact which will always be remembered by the government and the people of the UAE. He made these remarks during a meeting with Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika, federal minister for information and broadcasting, in Islamabad today. Mr. Abdul Sattar Lalika said some forces on the international scene have picked up Islam as a special target of their antagonism and hostility. He underlined the need for unity among Muslims to face this challenge. The two ministers agreed that close cooperation and united efforts by media networks of the two countries as well as Islamic states are required to correct the distorted image of the Islamic world being projected by some biased Western media. The two sides also discussed matters relating to close cooperation between the two brotherly countries, particularly in the field of media exchange. It was agreed that steps will be taken to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in all fields, including information and culture.

Further on Talks

BK0901160493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] have appealed to the Islamic community to take collective steps to mitigate the sufferings of the Muslims in occupied Kashmir, Palestine, and Bosnia. The appeal was made during talks between the delegations of the two countries in Islamabad today. While Information and Broadcasting Minister Abdul Sattar Lalika led the Pakistani side at the talks, UAE Information and Culture Minister Khalfan Bin-Muhammad al-Rumi headed his country's delegation. The talks were designed to further promote deep ties between the two countries.

During the talks, the UAE minister said thousands of Pakistanis have played a pioneering role in the development of the UAE—a fact which will always be remembered by the people and the Government of the UAE. He added that the UAE is benefiting from the services rendered by Pakistanis in various fields. He made it clear that the recent reports about the expulsion of 1,000 Pakistanis are not based on facts, adding that only those persons who did not possess necessary legal documents had been asked to leave; and during the same period of time, five times more Pakistanis arrived in the UAE to work there. The minister said the reports of this nature are being disseminated by certain vested interests who do not want to see the promotion of close friendly relations between Pakistan and the United Arab Emirates. He described all these reports as totally incorrect.

Earlier during the talks, Abdul Sattar Lalika, the information and broadcasting minister, said certain vested interests have picked up Islam as a special target for their antagonism and hostility after the demise of Communism. He referred to the miserable plight of the Muslims of Bosnia, Palestine, and occupied Kashmir and said that the Indian occupation forces are committing indescribable repression and tyranny in the occupied valley. He said it is unfortunate that the international media are not paying any attention to the people who are struggling to achieve their internationally recognized right to self-determination and are branding them as terrorists and extremists instead. Lalika said the situation demands that the Islamic community pay immediate attention to this issue and take early steps to meet the threat to their faith, cultural values, and mode of life.

Statement After Assembly Speaker's Visit to Iran

BK1001094693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan and Iran have condemned the demolition of the Babri Mosque and asked the Indian Government to reconstruct the mosque at its original site. A statement issued yesterday in Tehran at the end of the official visit to Iran by the National Assembly speaker, Gauhar Ayub, said that the two countries have also condemned the expulsion of Palestinians from their homeland. They stressed the need for steps to stop Serbia's atrocities against Muslims of Bosnia. The two sides also decided to cooperate between them in securing the support of other countries for the establishment of peace and tranquillity in Afghanistan.

UK Home Secretary Hears Report on Poppy Cultivation

BK1001141393 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 Jan 93 p 3

[Text] Islamabad (APP)—In Pakistan, area under poppy cultivation has been drastically reduced from 80,000 acres to 30,000 acres in the last few years.

This was disclosed by Federal Minister for Narcotics Control, Rana Chander Singh, in a meeting with the visiting British Home Secretary, Kenneth Clarke in Islamabad.

The federal minister informed the British home secretary regarding stringent measures taken by the present government to effectively fight against drug-related crimes.

Besides big seizures made by law enforcing agencies during the last one year, Chander Singh also briefed the British secretary about amendments in law under which huge quantity of narcotics were publicly set on fire in various parts of the country.

The minister said that Pakistan would extend every possible assistance to the world community to fight against the menace of drugs. He underlined the need for further cooperation between the two countries in the areas of demand reduction, crop substitution- related development programmes and close monitoring of chemicals used in drug laboratories.

Both the sides agreed to enhance the existing cooperation in the field of narcotics control.

Polish Minister Holds Talks With Defense Minister

BK1101030493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] The Polish minister for trade and industry, Mr. Waclaw Niewiarowski, in a meeting with the defense minister, Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, in Islamabad today held wide ranging talks on cooperation in the fields of defense and economy. During the meeting, it was emphasized that visits between the two countries at various levels would greatly benefit the people of the two countries. Syed Ghaus Ali Shah informed the Polish minister of the policies of the government. He said Pakistan is seeking international cooperation for strengthening the industrial base in the country.

ICO Envoy Urges United Muslim Stand on Babri Mosque

BK1001110993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Jan 93

[Text] Pakistan has called upon the Islamic world to adopt an identical stand on issues like demolition of the Babri Mosque in order to show solidarity with the Indian Muslims and apprise the Indian Government of their collective reaction in this regard. The appeal was made by Pakistani delegate Munir Akram while addressing the 17th session of the economic, cultural, and social commission of the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], which began in Jeddah yesterday. Speaking after being elected chairman of the current commission, the Pakistani delegate proposed that the Babri Mosque issue be included in the commission's agenda. He focused on the grave situation arising out of the demolition of the Babri Mosque. He said the issue will have far-reaching effects on the Islamic world in general and Indian Muslims in particular. The recommendations of the present commission will be discussed at the ICO foreign ministers meeting to be held in Karachi on 25 April this year.

Bhutto Condemns Indian Troops' Killing of 50 in Kashmir

BK1001152993 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN OBSERVER in English 10 Jan 93 p 2

[Text] Islamabad—Co-chairperson, Pakistan Peoples Party Benazir Bhutto has expressed concern over the killing of over 50 innocent people by Indian occupying forces in Sapore.

Condemning incident she said violation of human rights have become the norm in the Held Kashmir.

In a statement she said history will bear witness that freedom struggles had never been suppressed by force. She stressed that it would be a mistake on the part of India to assume that the uprising in the state of Kashmir could be suppressed by brutal force.

The leader of the opposition asked the Indian Government to stop perpetuating atrocities and fulfill its commitments.

She was happy to note American concern over the Sapore episode and observed that safeguarding and upholding human rights and values is only possible when human beings are looked upon as equals.

Benazir Bhutto called upon human rights groups to take cognizance of the Indian atrocities in the held valley and to dispatch a fact finding mission there so that a true picture of the situation could be evident for the world, she added.

Bhutto Stresses 'Meaningful' Dialogue With Government

BK1101055793 Islamabad THE PAKISTAN TIMES in English 11 Jan 93 pp 1, 8

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 10—Leader of the Opposition in the National Assembly Ms. Benazir Bhutto has stressed the need of meaningful dialogue with the government.

She was talking to the newsmen after the parliamentary party meeting of the PPP [Pakistan People's Party) led PDA [People's Democratic Alliance] here at the Parliament House on Sunday.

About the letter she has written to the Prime Minister in response to the letter of the latter she opined the Opposition too was interested in the dialogue. She was reluctant to give details of her reply but said "our letter in response to that of the Prime Minister is with him".

She claimed that she has not put the condition of the release of her husband Asif Ali Zardari for the dialogue with the government, she said, "if the government is sincere in its claims of having the intention of reconciliation, it must demonstrate it and all the political prisoners including Asif Ali Zardari should be released and the cases against them be withdrawn", besides the presidential references a few of which were against herself as well.

Ms Bhutto claimed the speedy courts dealing with the references for the disqualification from the membership of the parliament "do not live up to the international standards of justice."

While quoting the observations of certain internationally recognised jurists about the said courts she said Lord Giffet and others have categorically stated that these courts "do not match the international standards of justice".

When asked will she extend support to the new COAS [Chief of Army Staff] as she did earlier when late Asif Nawaz was holding the position she said "lets hope the new COAS too adopt the pragmatic approach of his predecessor".

She paid tributes to late COA's saying he was a true soldier who remained neutral in connection with the tussle between the government and the Opposition.

Earlier she said, "I would have been another Altaf Hussain if I would have succumbed to the pressure of the government and would have left the country and politics and would have gone abroad with Asif (her husband) and children". She added, "but I preferred to stay in the country." She was of the opinion that the denial of the government to release her husband was not the only hurdle in the process of reconciliation.

She also claimed that she said nothing objectionable about the nuclear programme during her interview with the NBC. What I said about the nuclear programme of the country was not different then that time and again was stated by the top goverment functionaries.

She said, "if the government is right in its claim that I have revealed state secrets in the interview it should be screened on the PTV and should be shown to the parliamentarians also."

Referring to her adderss to the US Congress soon after her election as prime minister in 1988 she noted "in that address too I had made it clear that Pakistan neither has the nuclear know how nor has any intention to develop nuclear device". She alleged that the present government itself created doubts about our peaceful nuclear programme when it said, "we don't have the nuclear device but we have the know how and that we can develop nuclear device if are compelled".

Bhutto Urged Not To Reject all Dialogue, Contact

BK1201101993 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 6 Jan 93 p 6

[Editorial: "The lady protests too much"]

[Text] Opposition Leader Ms Benazir Bhutto has made another statement, apparently unsolicited, to "rule out" a dialogue with the government. That such statements are now assuming the form of her second nature leaves thoughtful citizens pretty dispirited. The totally negative nature of such frequent reiterations does not contribute to clearing the already murky political prospect. True, the Opposition's primary task is to oppose. But not everything on earth. What exactly is she opposing by ruling out talks with the government in a manner which could hardly be more casual? As far as one can see, what she is trying to oppose by such attitudes is the very idea of trying to engage in a dialogue. This omnibus negative does not help the government but it is even less helpful to the Opposition. The only appropriate policy for the opposition in the present circumstances is to keep an absolutely open and unprejudiced mind. Excess of vanity is the worst enemy of practical politics. And

politics is nothing if not the art of the practical. The three representatives she nominated to meet the committee appointed by the government to commence a dialogue—all in detention—was the surest way to turn the Prime Minister's initiative into a perfect non-starter. As a political move, it may be seen in some quarters as a masterpiece of evasion. But the country needs something more solid and endurig from Ms Bhutto than astute—and sterile—moves on the non-existent chessboard.

Ms Bhutto is more than justified in mentioning her complaint about "political victimisation." It is a very real evidence. She has been personally victimised and treated with a kind of coarseness which is admittedly objectionable. The People's Party, too, has been cynically victimised, short-changed and in Sindh, manifestly cheated out of its due share of power. What she actually means by "economic" victimisation remains unclear unless she is asking for a share in the spoils gathered by the late Sindh CM [Chief Minister] Jam Sadiq Ali's flunkeys. But that would seem highly unlikely. However. Once it is granted that Ms Bhutto herself and her party have genuine reasons to feel squalied about the inelegenat and insensitive treatment of the Opposition at the hands of the President as well as the Prime Minister, there remains a great deal still to be said. And that is simply that the Opposition should take the initiative and declare its doors wide open. There is a lot of moral strength in the Oppositions's case. This consciousness should induce courage and positive initiatives rather than getting overwhelmed by a gnawing sense of grievance. Although she has frittered away a considerable part of her enormous capital of goodwill at the grassroots, she still commands popular esteem, sympathy and even admiration. Her policy should be to invite—or plainly challenge—the Prime Minister and his government to start the game on their own turf. With their own referee and seconds. The game must go on. Instead of adopting such active and positive policies, Ms Bhutto is all the time rejecting all possibilities of contact and dialogue with imperious disclaim which is lending increasing credence to the government party's allegation that Ms Benazir Bhutto is insatiably hungry for power and is yearning to grab it regardless of democratic process. And this suits the government in power perectly. They are safe in the saddle, thanks more to the Oppositions's negativism than to their own positive attainments, of which there aren't all that many.

Sri Lanka

Premadasa Calls Opposition Leaders to Rare Debate

BK0901161693 Hong Kong AFP in English 1141 GMT 9 Jan 93

[Text] Colombo, Jan 9 (AFP)—Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa challenged opposition leaders Saturday [9 January] to a rare public debate on his government's much criticised development programmes.

Premadasa said in a letter to opposition leader Sirima Bandaranaike from the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) that the debate could include the leaders of all registered political parties.

The president said he would participate in the debate as leader of the ruling United National Party. Bandaranaike, who was the world's first woman prime minister, was not immediately available for comment.

However the SLFP's General Secretary Dharmasiri Senanayake was quoted by the ISLAND newspaper as saying the SLFP was prepared for a public debate with Premadasa on the government's development policies.

The opposition has severely criticised the government's current programme of setting up 200 garment factories, and said the move was aimed at hoodwinking the masses ahead of a possible presidential election this year.

However Premadasa has ruled out a presidential poll before it is due in December 1994 and said the garment factories would provide jobs to thousands under the government's plan to overcome unemployment.

The opposition has also berated the government on its programme to privatise loss-making state ventures and a scheme to alleviate poverty.

A public debate between leading politicians is unheard of in Sri Lanka where the state media is frequently accused of reporting only the government's viewpoint and distorting information on opposition activities.

LTTE Suffer 'Heavy Casualties' in Amparai

BK1201114293 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 12 Jan 93

[Text] The LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] suffered heavy casualties when they attacked a security forces' fighting patrol sent out from the Kosgolla Detachment and engaged to the Kosgolla Village (?force) simultaneously in the eastern Amparai District yesterday. The Joint Operations Command said that reinforcements from (Periyapulimalli) and (Thanpitiya) detachments backed by armored cars were rushed by the security forces engaging the terrorists.

The LTTE's intelligence chief, Pottu Amman, who is the second accused in the Rajiv Gandhi murder, is believed to be one of four persons critically injured when a grenade exploded on a Pajero vehicle in which they were traveling in Jaffna recently, according to official sources.